STRIVING TO ENLIST more warriors to their side, Hana's team must convince reincarnated historical figures to join them as they attempt to acquire powerful, supernatural weapons before their enemies do! More colorful characters enter the fray, and the newest member of Hana's *inou* squad—the slightly overwhelmed Chikahito—learns secrets about the mysterious *oni* creatures and those who control them!

Gorgeous artwork explodes on each page of Gate 7, *proving that no one delivers breathtaking supernatural action like* **CLAMP** *!*

CLAMP

4

ゲニトセブン

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4
GATE 7
ゲート セブン
CLAMP

GATE 7 4

TRANSLATION BY **WILLIAM FLANAGAN**
ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY **WILLIAM FLANAGAN & PHILIP R. SIMON**
LETTERING BY **STEVE DUTRO**

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MAIN CHARACTERS

IEMITSU TOKUGAWA

The Tokugawa leader currently holding the most power in the clan. He is in a blood contract with the oni *Mitsuha, who eats humans.*

TENKAI

A vassal of Iemitsu who can mystically envelop areas at will.

MITSUYOSHI YAGYUU

A vassal of Iemitsu who is usually referred to as Jyubee.

YUKIMURA SANADA

A nursery-school teacher who can merge with the oni *Engetsu in order to wield its full strength.*

SASUKE SARUTOBI

A member of Yukimura Sanada's Ten Braves. Along with Saizou, he is a loyal vassal of Sanada's.

SAIZOU KIRIGAKURE

Another member of Sanada's Ten Braves, he has vowed unwavering loyalty to Sanada.

MITSUHIDE AKECHI

A man who is after the powerful oni *called Dairokutenmaoh. Mitsuhide's* oni *is named Enka.*

SANADA'S TEN BRAVES

Ten warriors who act on Yukimura Sanada's orders.

ONI *Beings who honor blood contracts with humans in order to grant them great strength and special powers. A blood contract with an* oni *can only be inherited by the descendant with the strongest blood relationship to the original contract holder.*

STORY SO FAR

While on a sightseeing trip to Kyoto, high-school student Chikahito Takamoto stumbles onto a paranormal battle taking place in a dark, strangely enveloped space. The fight involves Hana, Sakura, and Tachibana—three members of the Ura-shichiken. Three months later, Chikahito finds himself transferring to Kyoto and reuniting with the group. After being defeated by Sakura in a desperate battle, Yukimura Sanada becomes a Toyotomi ally. On the first day at his new school, Chikahito makes friends with a student, but in reality his new friend is the reincarnation of Toyotomi enemy Iemitsu Tokugawa. Almost as bad, Mitsuhide Akechi is a teacher at the school. On his way home, Chikahito meets Masamune Date and they are confronted by the reincarnation of Gracia Hosokawa, leading to a vicious battle of oni. *Masamune defeats Gracia and gains control of her* oni, *Nigemizu. Chikahito and Hana later meet up with Sakura to report the day's events . . . but what is that tiger-looking thing that suddenly appears?!*

CHIKAHITO TAKAMOTO

A high-school student who loves everything about Kyoto, including its history, shrines, temples, and cuisine. He met Hana and the others on a sightseeing trip to Kyoto.

SAKURA

A member of the Ura-shichiken who acts as the controller of all shadow-based elemental weapons. He is easygoing and treats Chikahito with kindness.

URA-SHICHIKEN

A district located near the Kitano Tenmangu Shrine that is home to a group of people—also called the Ura-shichiken, followers of the Toyotomi clan—who have paranormal talents (inou) *and are enlisted to protect the local area and Toyotomi interests.*

HANA

A member of the Ura-shichiken who can control the forces of myoho. *Loves noodle dishes. With a kiss, Hana cast a spell on Chikahito that caused him to move to Kyoto.*

TACHIBANA

A member of the Ura-shichiken who acts as the controller of all light-based elemental weapons. He is always very protective of Hana and brusque toward Chikahito.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN: THE CAPTURED PRINCESS

GRAB
YAAH!
DOOM
GRRRL
W-W-WAIT, THIS ISN'T ANOTHER ANCIENT WAR-LORD, IS IT?!
はは HA HA HA!
YOU REALLY ARE A FUNNY GUY, CHIKA-CHAN!

THIS ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
BUT IT'S OUR JOB TO TAKE CARE OF IT.
HANA?
YEAH.

FWOO
GRAAAAH!

FYUU
WHOOSH
FYUU
FYUUM
SST
FWAMM
PACH!

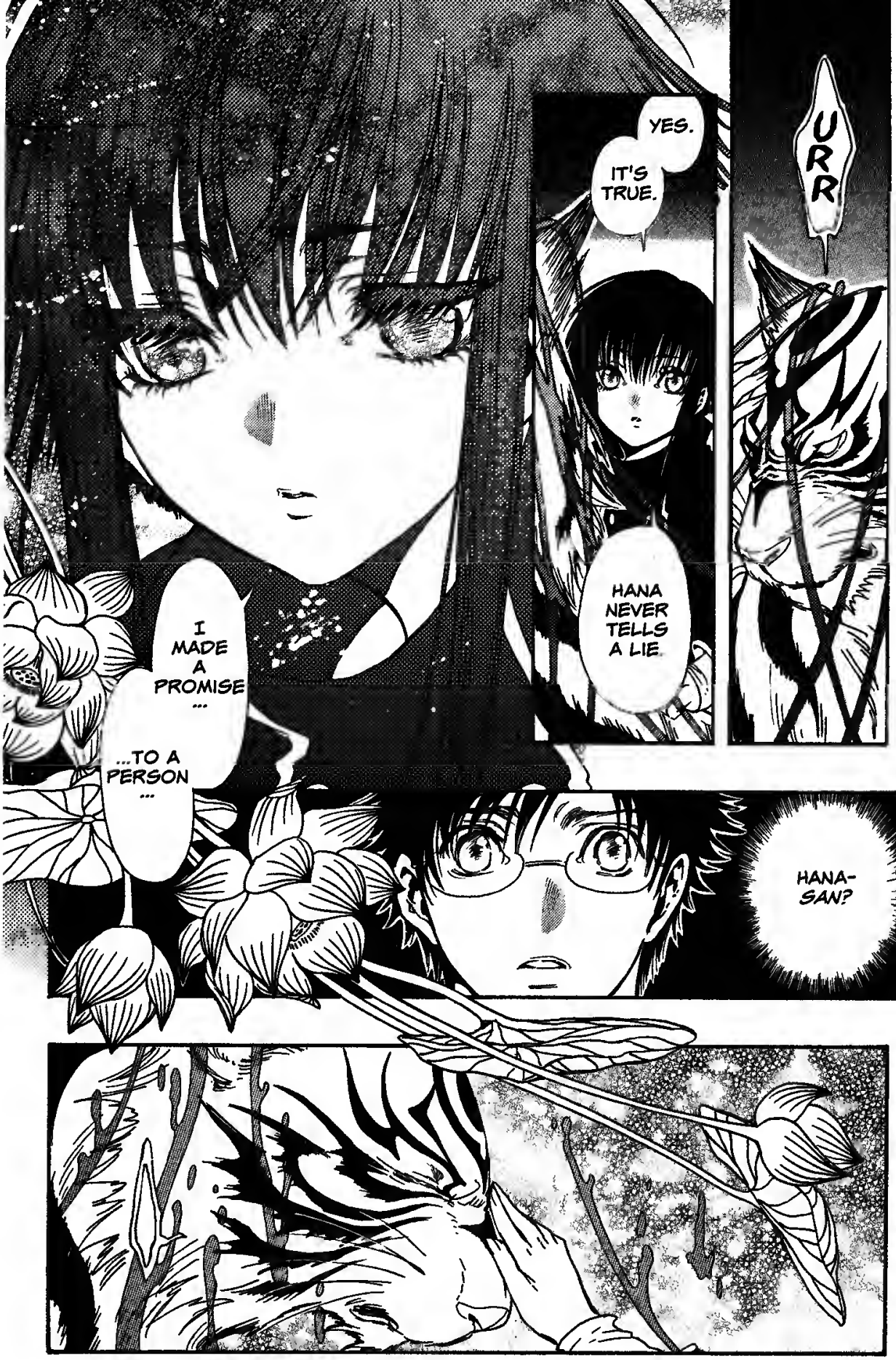
GWOOO
GRAAH
FSHIK
FWOO
Myoho
...
HANA-
SAN!

Suika!
ZHAA
RAK
GWOOO

GRAAAAAH!

SHUMM
GRRR
GRRR
GRRR
HANA-SAN!
WATCH OUT!
FWHSH
GRAB
GRAAAA...
IT'S OKAY. NO PROB-LEM.
SEE ?

LIS-
TEN...
GRRR
SHAK
SHAK
AH!
PANIC
PANIC
RRRR
SO I'M GOING TO LEAD YOU SOME-PLACE WHERE YOU CAN STAY WITHOUT HURTING ANYBODY.
CHI LIKE THAT COULD LEAK OUT AND AFFECT SOME OF THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE.
YOU'VE GOT VERY STRONG CHI...
YOU'RE MAKING TROUBLE FOR THE PEOPLE IN THIS RESTAU-RANT.

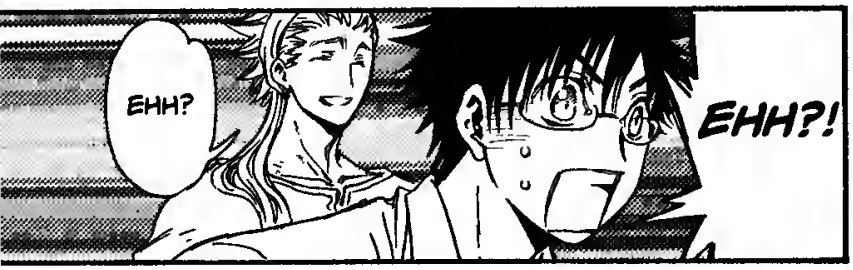

URR
YES.
IT'S TRUE.
HANA NEVER TELLS A LIE
I MADE A PROMISE ...
...TO A PERSON ...
HANA-SAN?

THOSE THINGS REALLY LOVE HANA.
YOU KNOW?
YOU MEAN ANI-MALS?
THANKS FOR UNDER-STANDING.
ZLMM
WELL, ANIMALS LIKE HANA, SURE...
...BUT IT'S TRUE FOR THE SPECIAL ONES, TOO, ESPECIALLY IF THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED BY OTHERS.

THAT WAS JUST THE HATREDS AND EVIL DESIRES OF PEOPLE SOLIDI-FIED.
SO THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT FROM THAT THING WE SAW AT THE YASUI SHRINE?
THIS ONE USED TO BE WITH SOME-ONE...
...BUT NOW IT'S ALONE.
IT'S... ALONE ?

HANA, ASK IT WHERE IT WANTS TO GO.
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE IT SOMEWHERE.
IT'S CALMED DOWN A BIT...
OKAY.

IT SAYS IT WANTS TO COME HOME.


EHH?
EHH?!

HUH?
IT SAYS IT WANTS TO STAY WITH US.

WELL, IT'S TRUE...ALL THE PEOPLE AT THE RESTAURANT ASKED OF US WAS TO TAKE THAT THING AWAY.
BUT IT WANTS TO GO HOME WITH US?

IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME, BUT TACHIBANA'S GOING TO BLOW A VEIN.
I'LL ASK HIM.
EH?
EH?
TRUE, TACHI-BANA HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR HANA.
YEAH.
HUH?
IS IT OKAY?
WHY... ASK ME?
IS IT OKAY TO BRING IT HOME WITH US?

WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER, CHIKA-HITO...
...SO I WANT TO KNOW IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU.
HANA-SAN...
...
SURE IT'S OKAY! I'LL MAKE IT WHAT-EVER IT LIKES TO EAT!
SUH--

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
AH!
YOU DON'T... YOU KNOW...
...EAT HUMANS, DO YOU?
LOOK-- WITH ITS CHI BEING SO STRONG, MOST HUMANS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE IT.
SO HOW DO WE GET IT HOME?
AAAAH!
HEY!
HOW DOES HE KNOW HOW HUMANS TASTE ?!
PHEW...
NOD NOD
IT SAYS THAT IT DOESN'T EAT THEM BECAUSE THEY TASTE SO AWFUL.
GLANCE
UWAAH!
WUMMP

IT CAN GET SMALL?
IT'S BE-CAUSE IT TOUCHED CHIKAHITO!
NRRRR!
EH?

WHINE!
NO! I CAN'T DO ANY-THING!
HOLD ON! WHEN SANADA-SAN'S ON! JUMPED ON TOP OF ME, NOTHING HAPPENED TO IT!
?
WELL, IT WAS CON-TRACTED TO SANADA.
THIS LITTLE ONE HAS NOBODY.
...?
IT'S ALL ALONE.
AND SINCE IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING BONDED TO IT, IT CAN EASILY CHANGE.

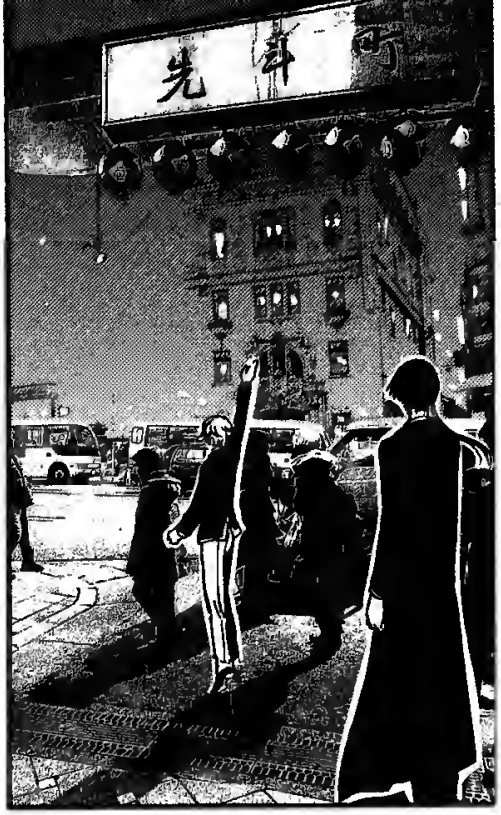
I DON'T SENSE ANY POWERS AT ALL FROM HIM.
WHY'S THAT?
HMM?
ZNZNZNN
SO THE WHOLE REASON HANA WANTED TO BE WITH CHIKA-CHAN...
...HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS POWER THING?
IT'S BECAUSE CHIKAHITO IS CHIKAHITO.

BWAAH
はわ
THAT'S LOVE, HUH?
はわ
BWAAH
FMP
ZUUM
ZUUM
ZUUM
はAH!
THUMP
SHFF

OR ALL OF YOURS WILL GET EATEN FOR YOU.
YOU SHOULD EAT, TOO, CHIKA-CHAN.
I'LL HAVE SPICY SHIN RAMEN!
TWO BOWLS!
MRRARR!
UAAH!!
NOM
カレ
NOM
カレ
SIGN: PONTOCHOU / YAWATA-YA
SIGN: LI-NAM-HA
YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO PEEP IN ON THE URA-SHICHIKEN ENVELOPMENT, WERE YOU, JYUBEE?
I SHOULD HAVE EX-PECTED THIS...

BUT, IEMITSU-SAMA...
...SHOULD YOU EVEN BE SO CLOSE TO THOSE PEOPLE?
SKFF
I'M AFRAID A TREE OF THE URA-SHI-CHIKEN...
...HAS MANAGED TO SIG-NIFICANTLY INCREASE HIS ENVEL-OPMENT POWER.
SLIP
WELL, I KNEW THAT NO ONE THERE...
...WAS A TOSHIMI SIGHT SPECIAL-IST.
THANKS TO PRINCESS SUGI.

SIGN: PONTOCHOU



OH, YOU WOULD SO LIKE TO SEE HIM AGAIN.
YOUR TWIN BROTHER.

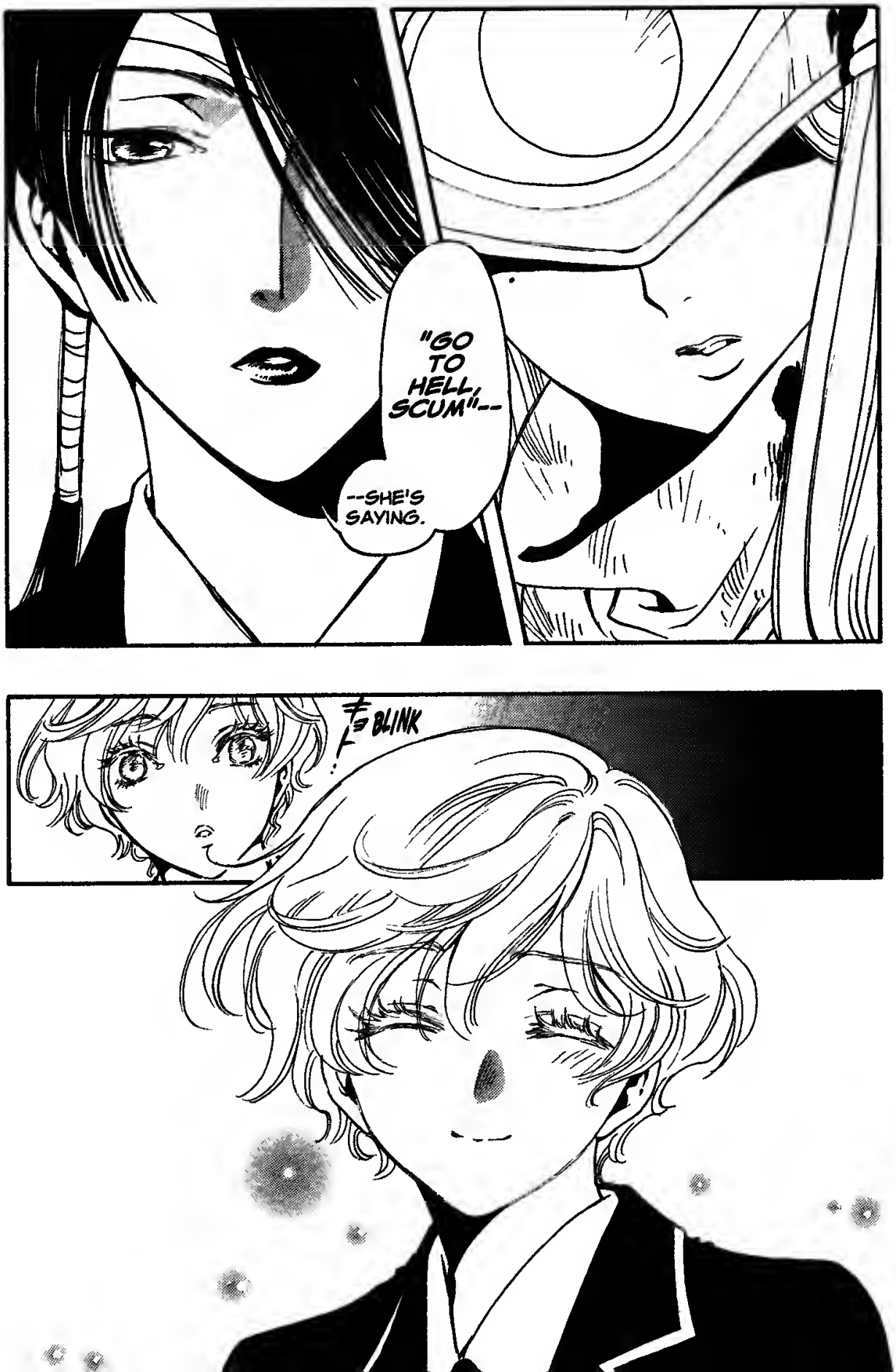
TPP

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
PRINCESS SUGI?

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

CHAPTER FOURTEEN: IEMITSU'S BINDING SPELL

...
WHAT'S THAT?
...
...
...
...
YEAH.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?


"GO TO HELL, SCUM"--
--SHE'S SAYING.
BLINK

FWAAAA
I AM CONSTANTLY AMAZED AT HOW CUTE YOU ARE...
...SUGI-HIME!
IS THERE ANY-THING I CAN GET YOU?
SOME-THING TASTY TO EAT, MAYBE?
KYAAっ
KYAA
I COULD GIVE YOU CLOTHES, BUT THE JUUFU CURSED ROBE YOU HAVE TO HAVE ON WOULD ONLY COVER THEM UP AGAIN...
...NO POINT IN THAT, HUH?
.....
.....
YOU REALLY NEVER CHANGE...
...DO YOU?

EH? IS THAT RIGHT?
I'D SAY... EVERYONE IN THE WORLD JUST LIKES THE THINGS THEY LIKE.
BUT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO *WANT* THE PEOPLE THEY LIKE *TO HATE THEM BACK*...
...ARE A TINY MINORITY, IN MY ESTIMATION.
BUT THAT MAJORITY...
むぅ HMPH
...ARE ROBBING THEMSELVES OF A FULL LIFE, I'D SAY.
THOSE OTHER PEOPLE SHOULD GIVE THIS A TRY.
TO TAKE THE PERSON THAT I'M MOST FOND OF...
...AND MAKE THEM SUFFER MENTALLY...
...AND PHYSICALLY...
...AND TO CORNER THEM...
...AND FINALLY END THEIR LIVES WITH MY OWN HANDS.

I HEAR YOU HAD THE SAME SORT OF "FUN" IN YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE, WHEN YOU WERE STILL THE SHOGUN...
...AND YOU'D OCCASIONALLY FIND PEOPLE YOU LIKED IN THE CASTLE TOWN AND TORTURE THEM TO DEATH...
... RIGHT ?
WELL, THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE CASTLE WOULD ALL HAVE TO *EVENTUALLY* BECOME MITSUHA'S PREY.
SO I DECIDED I NEEDED SOME *ALONE TIME* WITH THEM.
.....
THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WORLD THAT COULD MAKE ME HAPPIER.

HWIP ひゅるい
AND AFTER MITSUHA HAD GOBBLED UP ITS MEAL...
...TENKAI WOULD GIVE A PROPER MOURNING PRAYER.
REMEMBER?
.....
BUT... ...I JUST DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME BACK THEN.
JUST WHEN I'D THINK THAT I COULD HAVE A LITTLE MORE TORTURE TIME, JYUBEE, YOU AND YOUR GROUP WOULD SHOW UP AND HAUL ME BACK TO THE CASTLE...
...BECAUSE THE COUNTRY NEEDED GOVERNING OR SOMETHING.
WHEN... ...WHAT I WANTED TO DO WAS JUST HAVE SOME MORE FUN!
CONSIDERING YOUR POSITION, IT WAS ONLY NATURAL.

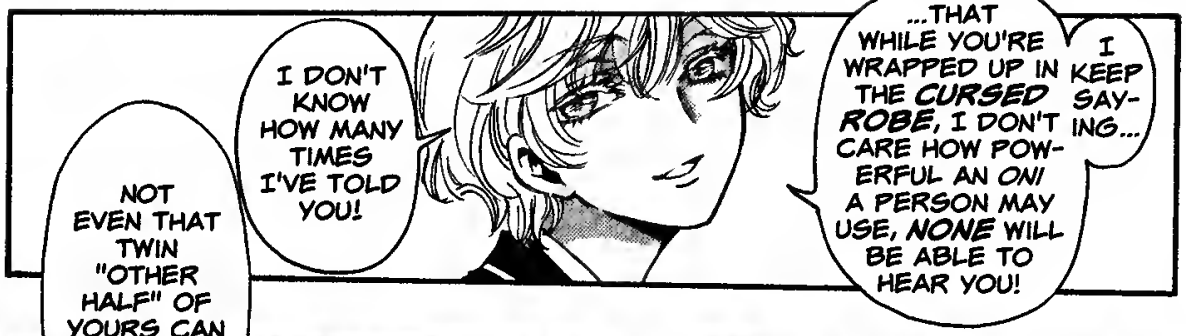
SURE, I KNOW.
ぷう GEEZ!
THAT'S WHY I USUALLY CUT MY ENTERTAIN-MENT TIME SHORT, PROPERLY KILLED THE PERSON...
...AND RUSHED BACK TO FEED MITSUHA.
BUT...
...IN THE WARRING STATES PERIOD, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER TO FEED MITSUHA.
I SURE WOULD'VE LIKED THE WARRING STATES PERIOD.
I'M GLAD MY GRANDFATHER WON THE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA AND ALL...
...BUT IT'S TOO BAD THAT ALL I EVER GOT OUT OF THAT TIME WERE THE STORIES OF THOSE AROUND ME.
THAT'S WHY...
...I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!
OUR UP-COMING BATTLE.

THIS WORLD HAS WAY TOO MUCH PEACE. HUMANITY'S SENSES ARE DULLED TO THE THINGS GOING ON AROUND THEM.
THERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WE FED TO MITSUHA BACK AT THE KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE...
...THE POLICE ARE STILL OBSESSED WITH TRYING TO LOCATE THE BODIES.
SO WHILE THESE MODERN PEOPLE ARE TIED UP IN THEIR OWN *MODERN CONCERNS*...
...A NEW WARRING STATES PERIOD IS BEGINNING!
AND THIS TIME, I'M GOING TO HAVE THE FUN I'M OWED!
AND OF COURSE...
...THE TOKUGAWA CLAN WILL WIN AGAIN...

...USING THE POWER...
...OF THE TOKUGAWA ONI, MITSUHA...
...AND SUGIHIME'S POWER, TOO.
WHEN YOU WIN THE BATTLE...
...AND HAVE SECURED THE BODY OF NOBUNAGA-KO AND HAVE THE ONI DAIROKUTENMAOH IN YOUR POSSESSION...
...WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THEM?

...THAT'S A SECRET!
BUT EVEN SO...
...WITH THAT INOU MIND POWER OF YOURS, YOU SHOULD...
...AL-READY KNOW.
GRIND
DON'T YOU?
SUGI-HIME?

.....
.....
.....
...
...
...


I KEEP SAYING...
...THAT WHILE YOU'RE WRAPPED UP IN THE CURSED ROBE, I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL AN ONI A PERSON MAY USE, NONE WILL BE ABLE TO HEAR YOU!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE TOLD YOU!
NOT EVEN THAT TWIN "OTHER HALF" OF YOURS CAN HEAR.

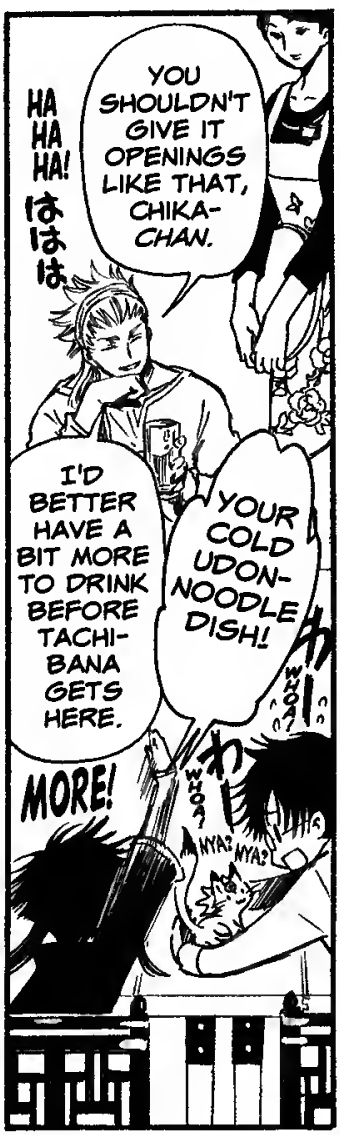
.....
.....
...
...
.....
AH!

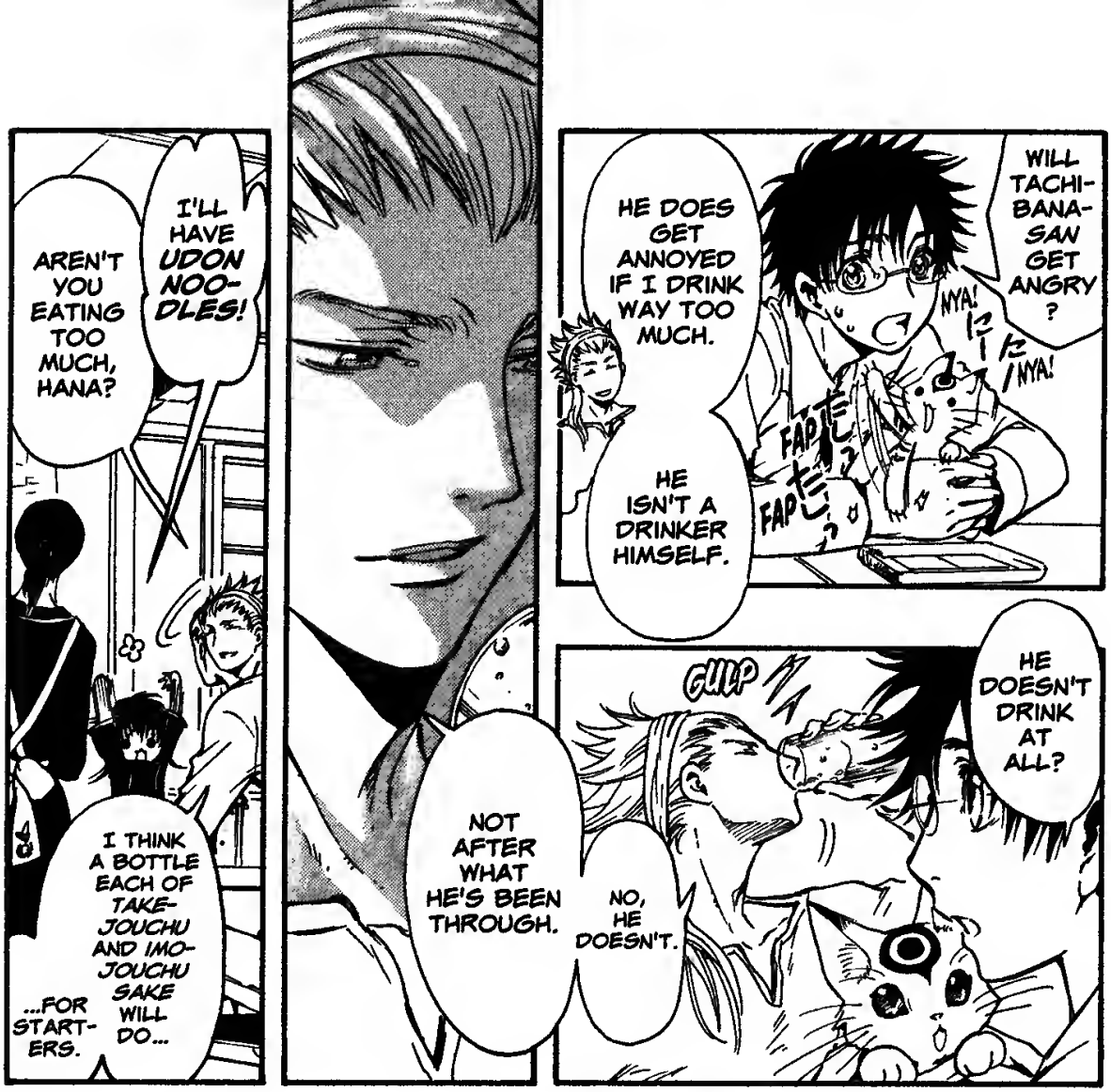
I THOUGHT I HEARD A GIRL'S VOICE...

きょろ
GLANCE
きょろ
GLANCE
WHAT IS IT, CHIKA-HITO?
NOTH-ING.
I JUST HEARD A VOICE.

NO...
I'M SURE IT WAS JUST MY IMAGINA-TION.
BUT...
AAH!
AAAAH!
HRAAH!
SHUF
MROW!

STARE


HA HA HA!
はは
YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE IT OPENINGS LIKE THAT, CHIKA-CHAN.
I'D BETTER HAVE A BIT MORE TO DRINK BEFORE TACHI-BANA GETS HERE.
YOUR COLD UDON-NOODLE DISH!
MORE!
WHO?
NYA?
NYA?


I'LL HAVE UDON NOODLES!
AREN'T YOU EATING TOO MUCH, HANA?
I THINK A BOTTLE EACH OF TAKE-JOUCHU AND IMO-JOUCHU SAKE WILL DO...
...FOR STARTERS.
NOT AFTER WHAT HE'S BEEN THROUGH.
HE DOES GET ANNOYED IF I DRINK WAY TOO MUCH.
HE ISN'T A DRINKER HIMSELF.
WILL TACHIBANA-SAN GET ANGRY?
NYA!
NYA!
FAP
FAP
NO, HE DOESN'T.
GULP
HE DOESN'T DRINK AT ALL?

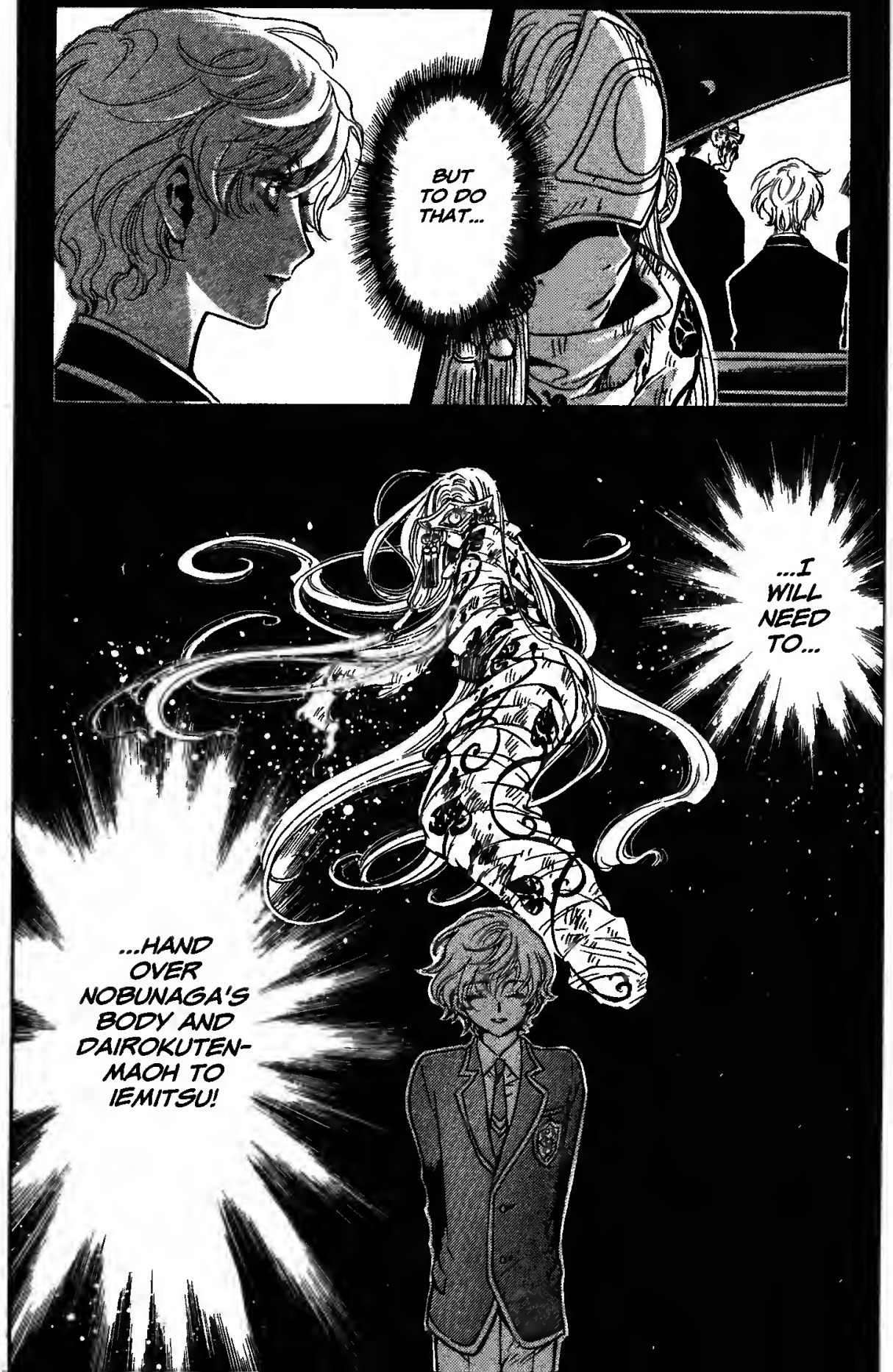
I SAID-- NO!
MRAW!!
"For starters"...?!
EHHHHHHHH?!!

THAT VOICE...
MRROW!

IT FEELS LIKE... SOMEBODY'S CALLING ME.
CALLING OUT AS HARD AS SHE CAN...
CALLING OUT SOMEBODY'S NAME...

...IT GOT THROUGH...
MY VOICE GOT THROUGH.

HANA...
THEN ...
...THE LIGHT I SAW WILL BECOME REALITY.
...SA-KURA...
THE DAY YOUR TRUE NAMES RETURN WILL SOON COME!
...AND TACHI-BANA!


BUT TO DO THAT...
...I WILL NEED TO...
...HAND OVER NOBUNAGA'S BODY AND DAIROKUTEN-MAOH TO IEMITSU!

STILL... IF HE GETS HIS HANDS ON THEM...
...THIS DEMON WILL...
PACHK
SIGN: KUDOYAMA NURSERY SCHOOL

ZZUM
THAT'S CERTAINLY A NOVEL APPROACH TO ART...
...YUKI-MURA-SAMA.
DON'T DISTURB ME, SASUKE.
I WILL HAVE TO MAKE NOT JUST THIS...BUT ALSO MR. TURTLE, MR. CHICKEN, AND MR. SHEEP BEFORE TOMORROW DAWNS.
FWIP
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S THAT?
DUNNN
IT'S MR. PANDA.
DON'T YOU THINK THIS WILL BE A BIT HARD FOR THE KIDS TO FIGURE OUT?
A BIT TOO DIFFICULT FOR THEIR YOUNG MINDS, MAYBE?
TAK
SILENCE, SASUKE!
ASK ANY EXPERT, AND THEY WILL SAY THAT IT IS A *FINE PANDA.*

SMILE
A LESSER PANDA, OF COURSE. CORRECT...
...YUKIMURA-SAMA?
A REGULAR PANDA.
WHOOAA!
WOBBLE
SAIZOU-CHAN WAS EVEN MORE INSULTING THAN I WAS!
PACHI
IF YOU'RE COMING, THEN CONTACT ME TO LET ME KNOW.
PACHI
PACHI
FWMP
BUT WE SEND TEXT MESSAGE AFTER TEXT MESSAGE TO YOU, YUKIMURA-SAMA, AND YOU NEVER REPLY!
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE THAT STUFF VERY WELL.
THAT'S WHY WE GOT YOU THE EASY PHONE MADE FOR GRADE SCHOOLERS!
WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN YOU THE EASIER ONE MADE FOR KINDERGARTNERS, BUT IT ONLY HAS THREE BUTTONS-- AND THERE ARE TEN BRAVES!
SO...
...WHAT BRINGS THE BOTH OF YOU HERE?

ESPECIALLY YOU, SAIZOU.
YOU'RE CONSTANTLY GETTING ANGRY ABOUT THE NAME OF THE NURSERY SCHOOL, SAYING IT'S A BAD OMEN, RIGHT?
KLNCH
IT'S KUDO-YAMA!
THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE HELD IN HOUSE ARREST BEFORE!
BUT NEVER AGAIN! I VOWED NEVER AGAIN!
IT WAS A LONG CONFINEMENT, BUT EVEN SO, IT BORE ITS FRUIT.
NOTHING TO BE DONE.
BUT IT WAS A TRAUMATIC TIME FOR THE TEN BRAVES.
AND SO...
SHHP
...WE'VE BEEN VERY HARD AT WORK...
WSH
...TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T SUFFER A TRAUMA LIKE THAT AGAIN.

SO HERE'S THE INFORMATION YOU WANTED, YUKIMURA-SAMA...
THE NAMES OF THOSE CONTRACTED TO *ONI* WHO HAVE GONE OVER TO THE TOKUGAWA SIDE?

FFWT
AND ...
... SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
WISH
THEY'VE COME TO US HERE, HUH?

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

CHAPTER FIFTEEN: NOTICE OF BETRAYAL

BE SURE YOU DON'T TRIP OVER ANY-THING--
--HANA!
RIGHT.
GLANCE
GLANCE
IS SOME-THING WRONG...
...CHIKA-CHAN?
NO.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU REALLY, REALLY, REALLY CAN HOLD YOUR LIQUOR!
UWPP
GRR
QUITE A NUMBER OF "REALLYS," HUH?
WELL, THEY SAY IT'S BEST TO ONLY FILL UP YOUR STOMACH TO 80 PERCENT, SO I HAVEN'T OVERDONE IT.
YOU MEAN AFTER FOUR WHOLE BOTTLES OF SAKE AND WHISKEY, YOU'VE ONLY FILLED 80 PERCENT OF YOUR STOMACH?!
WELL, I WOULD-N'T CALL HANA A SLOUCH, EITHER!
HANA EATS SO MANY NOODLE DISHES, IT MAKES YOU WONDER WHERE IN THAT TINY BODY HANA PUTS IT ALL!
HMM!
WUUP
MROW

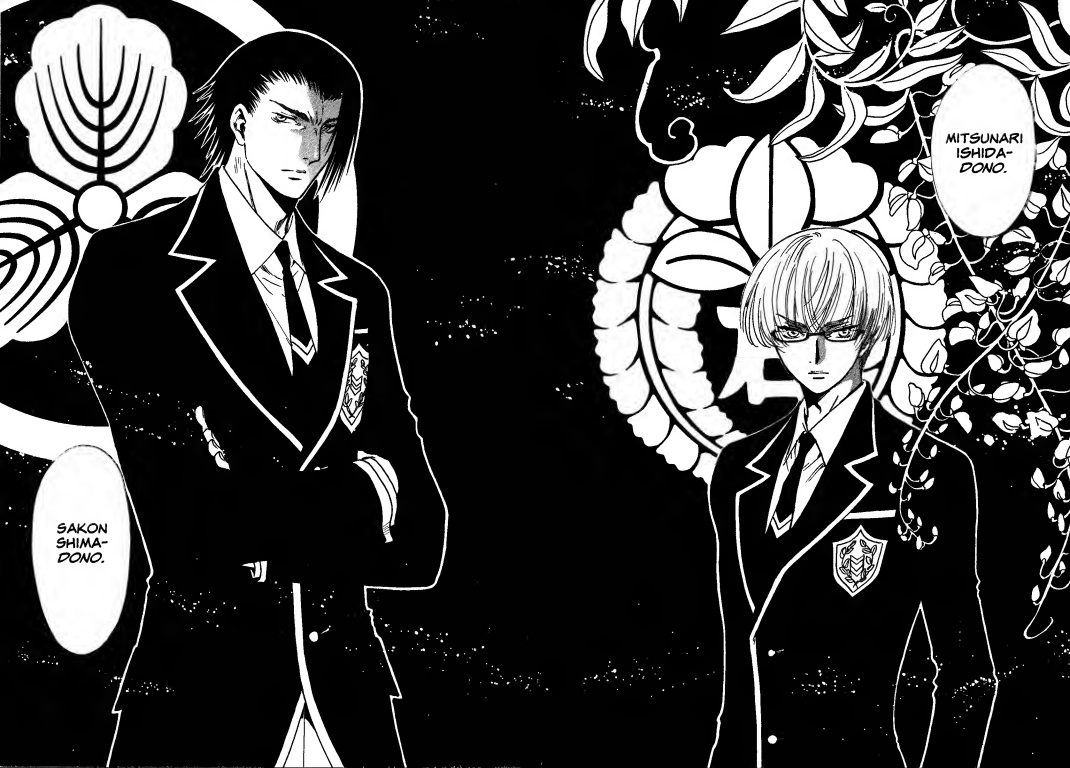
FLINCH
HANA-SAN?
SOMEONE HAS ENVELOPED AN AREA NEAR HERE.

I HOPE IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN AN ARGUMENT.
SO SOME-BODY'S GETTING INTO AN... ARGUMENT, RIGHT?
...WHOEVER IS DOING IT HAS A LOT OF INOU PSYCHIC POWER.
GLANCE
GLANCE
きょろ
きょろ
WHUH-WHERE IS IT?
THERE.
WHIP

...IT'S THE DAYCARE CENTER WHERE YUKIMURA SANADA WORKS.
TOK
ANOTHER IMPRES-SIVE ENVELOP-MENT...

...
...BUT THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE KIND OF ENVELOPMENT THOSE URASHICHIKEN GUYS USE.
SAIZOU IS ON A JOURNEY OF SELF-IMPROVEMENT.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE ISN'T UP TO URASHICHIKEN LEVEL YET, BUT I'M SURE WE'LL SEE THE DAY WHEN SAIZOU SURPASSES THEM.
YUKIMURA-SAMA!
CHIKK
I, SAIZOU, SWEAR TO YOU--
--THAT I WILL TRAIN MYSELF UNTIL I DROP.
I WILL BECOME STRONGER...ALL THE BETTER TO SERVE MY MASTER YUKIMURA-SAMA!
YEAH, YEAH.
LET'S CUT OFF THE USUAL COMPLIMENTS AND GROVELING. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

YUKIMURA-SAMA HASN'T HAD A CHANCE TO GREET OUR GUESTS YET.
--"IT'S BEEN A WHILE"...? WOULD THAT BE MOST APPROPRIATE?
PERHAPS I SHOULD--
--SAY--

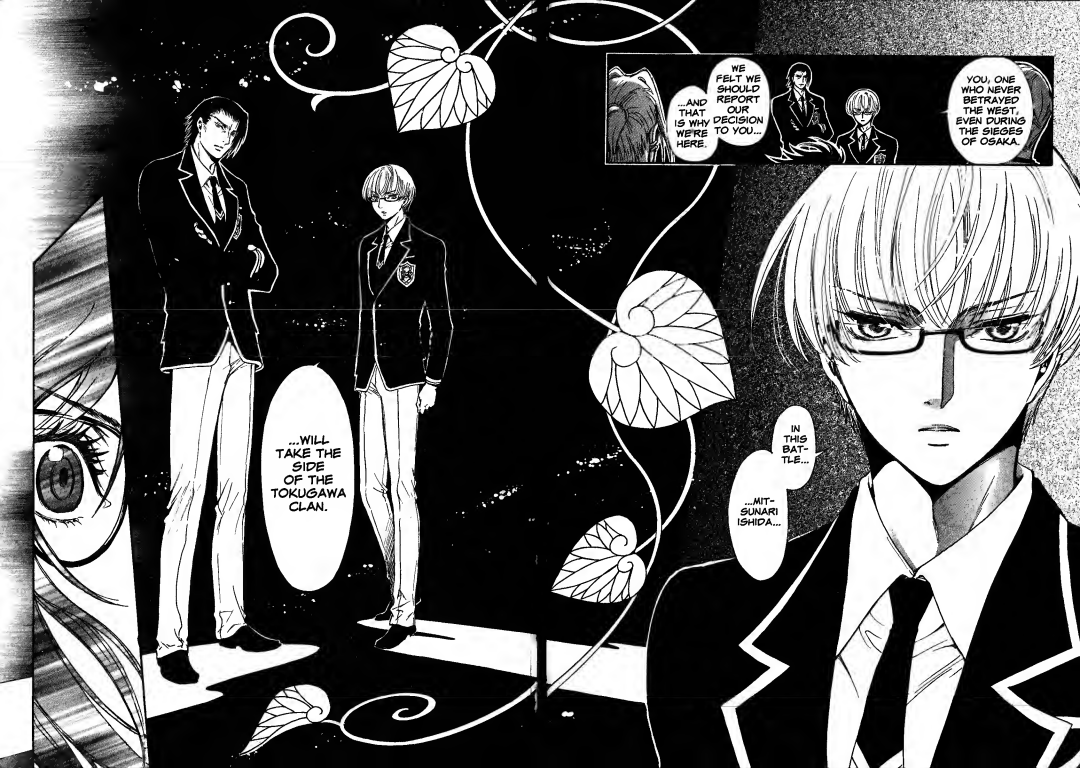

SAKON SHIMA-DONO.
MITSUNARI ISHIDA-DONO.

...NOBU SHIGE SANADA-KO.
...YES, IT CER-TAINLY HAS BEEN A WHILE...
...IN THIS LIFE.
WSH
SHNKK
WHPP
SAKON.

THAT PRIVATE-SCHOOL UNIFORM ...
IT'S NISHIJIN HIGH SCHOOL ...
... ISN'T IT?
WHY?
NEVER MIND. THE SCHOOL ISN'T TOO FAR FROM HERE.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR YOU TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
OR PERHAPS YOUR TEN BRAVES HAVE ALREADY INFILTRATED IT?
GRR
GRIN
I HEARD THAT YOUR MOVE TO KYOTO WAS DUE TO A DECISION ON YOUR PART TO TAKE HIDETSUGU'S SIDE.
I ASSUME THERE IS NO MISTAKE.
NO MISTAKE.

...MADE MY DECISION WHILE FIGHTING ONE OF TOYOTOMI'S ALLIES.
I, SANADA ...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW IT WILL ULTIMATELY END IN DEFEAT?
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A WAR WHERE THE RESULT WAS KNOWN AHEAD OF TIME.

TRUE, I SUP-POSE.
EVEN BACK THEN... AT OSAKA ...
...WE COULD HAVE WON.
THAT WAS SOMETHING WE FIRMLY BELIEVED IN.
THAT'S... THE KIND OF PERSON YOU WERE.


YOU, ONE WHO NEVER BETRAYED THE WEST, EVEN DURING THE SIEGES OF OSAKA.
WE FELT WE SHOULD REPORT OUR DECISION TO YOU...
...AND THAT IS WHY WE'RE HERE.
IN THIS BATTLE...
...MITSUNARI ISHIDA...
...WILL TAKE THE SIDE OF THE TOKUGAWA CLAN.

ISHIDA-DONO...

NO.
ISHIDA-DONO ISN'T THAT KIND OF MAN.
IF HE THINKS THAT YUKI-MURA-SAMA IS GOING TO ACT AS HIS FOLLOWER NOW...
...HE'S GOT ANOTHER THING COMING!
...AND HERE COMES THE MAN TO BLAB IT ALL TO YOU HIMSELF!
SHP
AW!
THE TEN BRAVES RISK LIFE AND LIMB TO SNIFF OUT SECRET INFO ON ISHIDA AND THE TOKUGAWA CLAN JOINING UP...

HE MAY HAVE AN UNPREDICT-ABLE TEMPER, BUT HE ALSO HAS A HEART THAT KNOWS HIS DUTY.
I DON'T CARE HOW OTHERS PERCEIVED HIM! IT'S A FACT THAT HE STAYED LOYAL TO THE HEAD OF THE TOYOTOMI CLAN UNTIL THE END.
...BUT THERE AREN'T MANY OTHERS WHO CAME OUT WITH POSITIVE OPINIONS OF THE MAN.
HMM
うーん
HE MAY HAVE SHOWN THAT FACE TO YOU, YUKIMURA-SAMA...
THEN...
...WHY TOKU-GAWA THIS TIME?

I CAN'T SAY.
I IMAGINE WE'LL FIND OUT...
...IF IT COMES TO BLOWS.

NOW...
WE'RE LATE IN REPORTING THAT MITSUNARI ISHIDA AND SAKON SHIMA ARE ON THEIR SIDE, BUT THERE WERE OTHER THINGS WE ALSO FOUND OUT ABOUT THE TOKUGAWA.
TELL ME.
BUT FIRST...
FWOOOSH
OH, NO, NO, NO, NO!
I BEG YOUR FORGIVE-NESS, YUKIMURA-SAMA!
I HAVE ALREADY MOPPED!
...SHOES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE DAYCARE CENTER!

THIS TIME...
...WE WILL DEFINITELY WIN.
VVT
THE ENVELOPMENT WASN'T SAIZOU KIRIGAKURE'S STYLE, THOUGH.
IT WAS ISHIDA.
EH?
ALREADY?!
IT VANISHED.
BE AT EASE...
EN-GETSU.
SHMP
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, WIPE THOSE WINDOWS, ESPECIALLY IN THE HIGH PLACES WHERE THE TEACHERS CAN'T REACH!
ROGER!
YOU'RE SO STRICT!
DRRRRR

Mitsunari Ishida?... That Mitsunari Ishida?!
あの石田三成?!
BWAAH!
THERE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A FIGHT IN THAT SHORT A TIME.
SO WHAT DID THEY WANT?
I DON'T KNOW.
I'M SURE SANADA WILL TELL HIDETSUGU WHATEVER'S NECESSARY FOR HIM TO KNOW.
THAT WOULD MEAN THAT SAKON SHIMA WAS WITH HIM.
EH?
え
EH?
え
BUT THE TWO LEFT VERY QUICKLY.
HE WAS.
MITSU-NARI ISHIDA.
BUT ONLY IF IT MEANS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WINNING AND LOSING A BATTLE...
...RIGHT?
THAT'S THE NATURE OF THOSE WITH SANADA BLOOD.

IT WAS SAKURA'S HARD WORK!
MMM!
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT THE TOYOTOMI HAVE SANADA ON THEIR SIDE AGAIN THIS TIME!
THANKS ...
... HANA!
...
WHAT ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE FOR, BRAINLESS?
MAKE YOUR REPORT!
EH?!
REPORT ON EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TODAY!
STARE
GRATCH
?!
Hey, Hana!

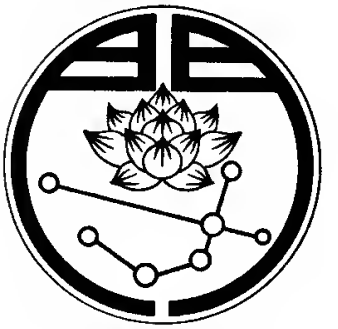
ANNOYED
イライッ
EH?
EH?
TODAY WAS YOUR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL, RIGHT?
REPORT ON THAT!
WRONG!
AH!
I ALREADY TOLD SAKURA-SAN EVERYTHING ABOUT MASAMUNE-SAN AND GRACIA-SAN...
WHUH--
WHY?
ぽかん
BWAAN...
ぽかん
BWAA
WE MAY NOT HAVE HAD A CHOICE IN THE MATTER, BUT WE'RE HOUSE-MATES.
SINCE WE'RE SENDING YOU OFF TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY, ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL FOR US TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT WHETHER YOU'RE HAVING ANY PROBLEMS OR NOT?
YOU HAVE A PROB-LEM?
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE CONCERNED!

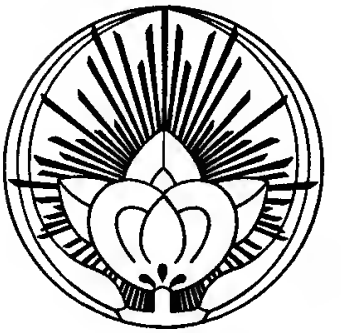
OKAY!
SMAK
WE ALL FEEL THE SAME.
I-I'M SORRY!
YOU JUST TRANSFERRED IN TODAY! DO YOU INTEND TO GO TO SCHOOL WITHOUT YOUR JACKET?!
I PUT IT ON GRACIA-SAN AND FORGOT IT!
AH!
BY THE WAY, CHIKA-CHAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SCHOOL JACKET?

HANA WILL TOO!
NYAOW!
YES, SIR!!
AH HA HA HA HA!
THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE FREELOADER AND SAKURA IS TO SIT SEIZA IN THE LIVING ROOM UNTIL I SAY THEY CAN GET UP!

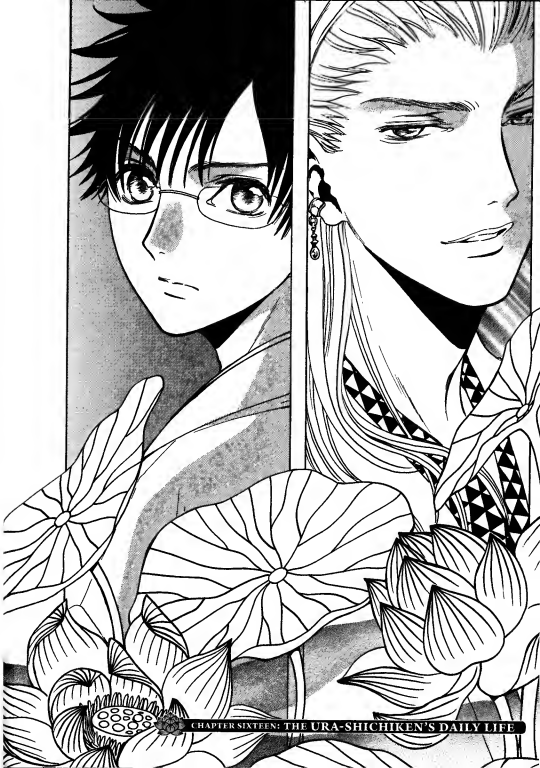
SAKURA! YOU'RE A PART OF THIS TOO! WHAT'S WITH THAT CAT?!
VSSH
NOW YOU WENT AND MADE HIM ANGRY, CHIKA-CHAN.

HANA BROUGHT THE KITTY HOME!
THEN IT'S ALL RIGHT.





I'M CHIKAHITO TAKAMOTO.
I'VE RECENTLY MOVED TO KAMISHICHIKEN... OR SHOULD I SAY URASHICHIKEN?
AN AWFUL LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED.
BUT I'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO MAKE FRIENDS, OF SORTS, WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE URASHICHIKEN.
AND I MADE A PLACE FOR MYSELF HERE.
A PLACE, YES, BUT--
WAKE UP, FREELOADER!
BLINK



"WAKE UP, FREE-LOADER!"
"WAKE UP, FREE-LOADER!"
"WAKE UP, FREE-LOADER!"
"WAKE UP..."
DROP
FWIP
YES, SIR!
DROP
BREEP
PHEW!
BUT TACHIBANA-SAN'S ALARM PROGRAM IS BAD FOR MY HEART...
IT REALLY DOES MAKE ME WAKE UP RIGHT AWAY.
THIS IS MY ROOM.
OR RATHER, IT'S MY SPACE.
IT WASN'T ORIGINALLY A ROOM-- MORE LIKE A HALLWAY.
BUT I GET TO STAY WITHOUT PAYING RENT OR UTILITIES.
よっとHUP!
AND WHEN I DO THE COOKING, THERE'S NO CHARGE FOR FOOD, EITHER. I DOUBT I COULD FIND ANOTHER DEAL LIKE THIS!
THIS IS WHAT THE LAYOUT LOOKS LIKE.
GARDEN
庭
桜さん
SAKURA-SAN
橘さん
TACHI-BANA-SAN
ME ここ
SECOND FLOOR
FIRST FLOOR
はなさん
HANA-SAN
ATTIC

WHOOSH
THE ONLY INCONVENIENCE IS WHEN I'M CHANGING CLOTHES.
FOOM
UWAAH!
HANA-SAN SOMETIMES COMES FLYING IN, YOU KNOW? AND I NEVER HEAR HANA'S FOOTSTEPS.
FOOM
FWT
MRAAR!
YOURS, EITHER. RIGHT?
SO, AS YOU SEE...
...THE FOUR OF US AND ONE CAT--WHO IS ACTUALLY A HUGE TIGERLIKE THING, SHRUNKEN DOWN--ARE LIVING HERE.
MRRR!
LET'S GO MAKE BREAKFAST. WHAT'LL I FIX, HM?
BY THE WAY, THIS HOUSE IS LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THE KAMI-SHICHIKEN SECTION OF KYOTO, VERY CLOSE TO THE KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE.

AH!
FIRST, I HAVE TO CHECK WITH SAKURA-SAN.
I'm home. Looking forward to breakfast.
WHAT'S WRONG?
SAKURA-SAN IS OUT MOST DAYS... OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY MOST NIGHTS. HE USUALLY LETS ME KNOW BY TEXT MESSAGE WHETHER HE'LL BE EATING WITH US.
BUT WHEN HE GETS BACK SUPER LATE AT NIGHT, HE USES THIS WHITEBOARD.
I'm home. Looking forward to Breakfast.
SO... BREAKFAST FOR FOUR THIS MORNING.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
LET'S GO TRADITIONAL WITH FRIED FISH...
I HAVE SOME I BOUGHT AT THE KITANO SHOPPING DISTRICT.
HE PROBABLY THINKS THAT A TEXT LATE AT NIGHT WILL MAKE MY PHONE RING AND WAKE ME.
I THINK IT SHOWS HIS RESPECT FOR OTHERS.
AT FIRST, HIS APPEARANCE, TALL WITH PURE-WHITE HAIR, FRIGHTENED ME A BIT.
...AND HE'S ALWAYS NICE AND CONSIDERATE...
BUT HIS VOICE IS REALLY COOL, AND THE WAY HE TALKS IS SO SONOROUS ...
たしーん
hi

AH, BUT STILL...
I WONDER IF HE GOT ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT?
TP TP
LOOSH
HE SAYS HE DOESN'T SLEEP UNLESS HE'S...
...WITH SOME-ONE... TOUCH-ING THEIR SKIN...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
WHOOOOOF
SLAP
RIGHT!
FRIED FISH AND SPICED, PAN-FRIED ROLLED OMELET.
ALSO MISO SOUP AND RICE FOR TACHIBANA-SAN, SAKURA-SAN, AND ME...
...AND UDON-NOODLE SOUP FOR HANA-SAN.
CLAMOR
CLATTER
CLEAN
HANA-SAN CLAIMS TO EAT RICE, TOO, BUT...
...NOODLES MAKE HANA-SAN SO MUCH MORE ENTHUSI-ASTIC.

TACHIBANA-SAN IS A COLLEGE STUDENT GOING TO THE FAMOUS KYOTO UNIVERSITY.
I'D LIKE TO GO THERE, TOO, BUT IF I SAID THAT OUT LOUD, HE'D ONLY GIVE ME A REALLY COLD STARE!
OH, NO! THE TIME!
FWSH
IF I WIND UP RUNNING LATE, TACHI-BANA-SAN WILL GET REALLY SCARY!
I JUST KNOW HE'D TELL ME THAT I DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
THONK
IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GOING TO MY SCHOOL, YOU'LL NEED TO BECOME MUCH MORE DILIGENT.
FREE-LOADER.
OW!

BOOK: ENTRANCE EXAM STUDY GUIDE / KYOTO UNIVERSITY
AND THAT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY!
BUT WHEN HE SAYS, "GOING TO MY SCHOOL," IT MEANS HE DOESN'T REALLY OBJECT.
HE'S SCARY... AND I MEAN REALLY SCARY!
BUT THIS IS HOW HE'S, LITTLE BY VERY LITTLE, COMING AROUND TO ACCEPTING ME LIVING HERE.
...IT CAN BE TERRIFY-ING.
WHEN THOSE BEAUTIFUL-- BUT SHARP AS KNIVES-- EYES GLARE AT YOU...
WHOOPS!
STILL-- HE'S SCARY.
HE'S STRICT, BUT I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT HE'S A NICE GUY, TOO.

SAKURA-SAN'S WORK IS HELPING THE MAIKO INTO THEIR KIMONOS. HE ALSO DOES LOADS OF ODD JOBS ALL OVER KAMI-SHICHIKEN.
THE THIRD PER-SON HERE--
WKAAAM
WAAAH!
わぁあ!!

HANA-SAN LIKES TO COME FLYING IN, SURPRISING ME ALL THE TIME, AND HANA'S ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND LIKE CRAZY.
HANA-SAN!
GOOD MORNING, CHIKA-HITO!
MROW!
SKTCH SKTCH
MROW!
A LOT LIKE A CAT, REALLY.
TWO CATS? OR TWO PEOPLE?
KISS
MORN-ING!
MROWRR?
HAH!
SO INCREDIBLY CUTE!

HANA-SAN REALLY IS CUTE, BUT...
...THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND. SOMEHOW HANA-SAN SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING ABOUT ONI AND THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRACT WITH THEM. IT'S JUST INCREDIBLE!
BUT HANA-SAN IS ALSO SURROUNDED BY NOTHING BUT MYSTERIES AND MORE MYSTERIES.
AND THE BIGGEST MYSTERY ...
...IS WHETHER HANA-SAN IS A BOY OR A GIRL...

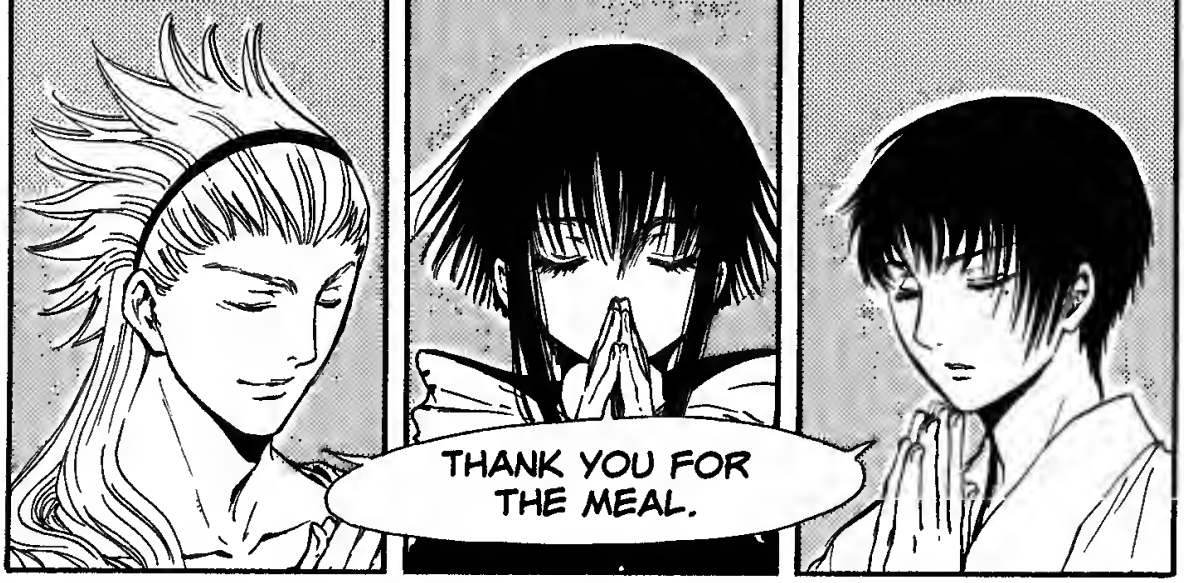
...AND I GO PLAY AT YUKI-MURA'S PLACE...
...AND I PLAY WITH THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD CATS...
I TAKE NAPS...
KUDO-YAMA NURSERY SCHOOL?
SHOCK
UH. WHAT?
BLUUSH
OH!
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT YOU DO WHEN I'M AT SCHOOL...
...AND THE OTHER GUYS ARE OUT?
BWAHAN
YEP! I PLAY WITH EVERY-BODY!
YES!
THAT IS TOO CUTE!
PULL
WHAT IS?

EH?!
SAKURA MADE IT.
PANIC
あわわわ
PANIC
THAT ...
THAT COSTUME OF YOURS! IT'S VERY CUTE!
WHOOSH
SAKURA IS GREAT AT EVERY-THING!
YEP!
WHOOSH
SAKURA-SAN REALLY CAN DO ANY-THING, HUH?
REALLY?
He's even a good cook!
EH?
THIS IS A PANDA.
HRRK!
IT'S A PANDA.
IT'S A REALLY CUTE RACCOON-DOG COSTUME!

PRODUCTION: SAKURA
AND SAKURA MADE IT.
COMPLETELY HANDMADE
DESIGN: YUKIMURA
YUKIMURA DREW A PICTURE OF IT.
I'M GOING TO THE DAYCARE CENTER TODAY, SO I'LL TELL YUKIMURA...
...THAT CHIKAHITO LIKES IT... AND SAYS IT'S A NICE RACCOON DOG!
BY THE WAY...
SUPERVISION: THE TEN BRAVES
FLINNNCH
UWAAA!! PLEASE KEEP THAT A SECRET!
?
NOD
NOD
IT'S BETTER TO KEEP THAT A SECRET ?

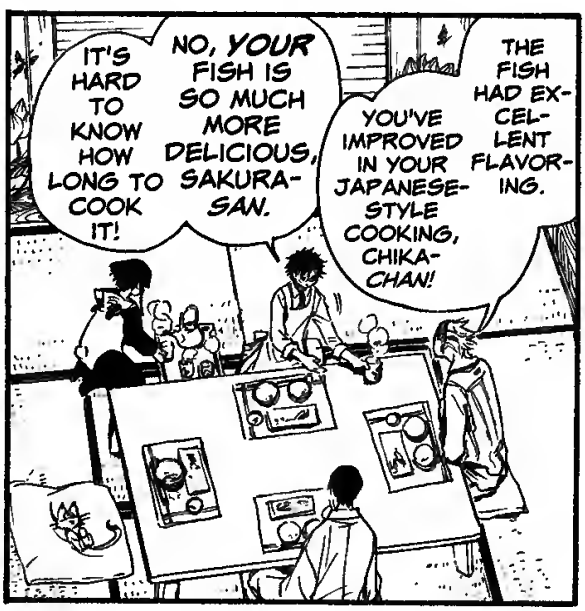
BA BHMP
HANA-SAN REALLY IS SO CUTE!
IF YOU SAY SO, THEN IT'LL BE A SECRET.
SHUUM
HANA WILL HELP!
MROW!
BREAK-FAST IS READY!
AH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
YOU CAN GO GET THE DISH-ES.
TMP TMP TMP TMP
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND.
AND THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT SURPRISE ME AND SCARE ME.

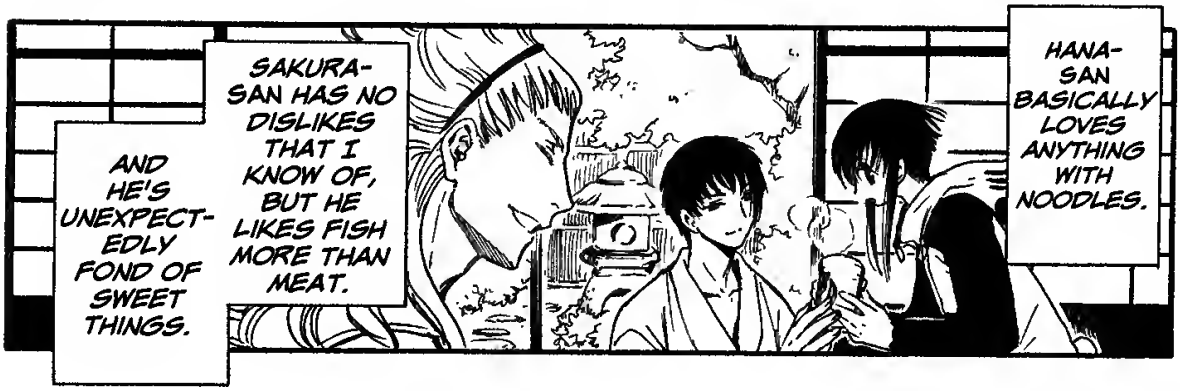
BUT ...
...WHEN I MET HANA AND THE GUYS AT KITANO TENMANGU SHRINE...
...THAT WAS A GOOD THING, I THINK.


THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.

SORRY FOR THE POOR PERFORMANCE.

なでなで PET
PET
I THINK I'M GETTING A GRASP ON EVERYONE'S LIKES AND DISLIKES HERE.
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD KID, CHIKA-CHAN!


IT'S HARD TO KNOW HOW LONG TO COOK IT!
NO, YOUR FISH IS SO MUCH MORE DELICIOUS, SAKURA-SAN.
YOU'VE IMPROVED IN YOUR JAPANESE-STYLE COOKING, CHIKA-CHAN!
THE FISH HAD EXCELLENT FLAVORING.


AND HE'S UNEXPECTEDLY FOND OF SWEET THINGS.
SAKURA-SAN HAS NO DISLIKES THAT I KNOW OF, BUT HE LIKES FISH MORE THAN MEAT.
HANA-SAN BASICALLY LOVES ANYTHING WITH NOODLES.

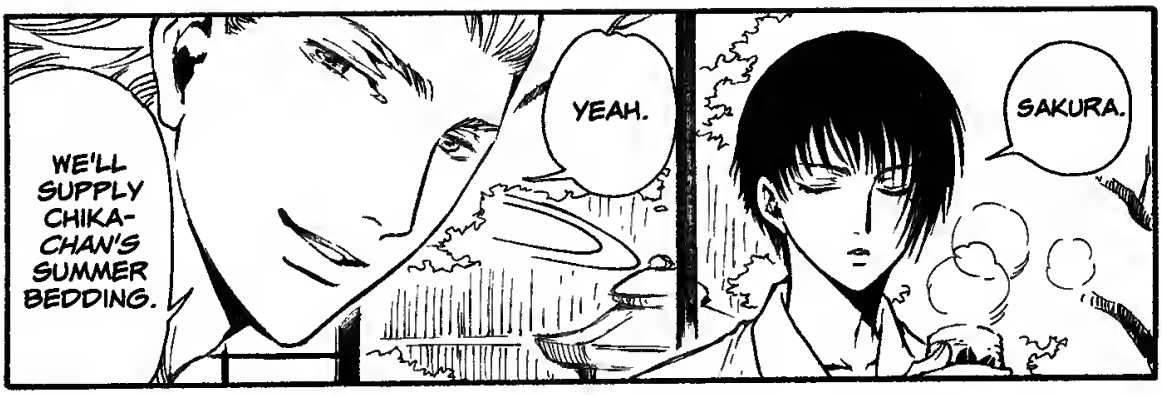
...ABSOLUTELY REFUSES TO EAT BELL PEPPERS.
KIND OF CUTE, ACTUALLY.
AND TACHI-BANA-SAN...
SHAKE
NUH...
NOTH-ING...
WHAT?
GLARE
IT'S ALMOST THE END OF MAY.
DO YOU HAVE YOUR SUMMER CLOTHING ALL PRE-PARED?
JOLT
YES!
MY SUMMER SCHOOL UNIFORM ARRIVED!
AND STREET CLOTHES?
I PRETTY MUCH BROUGHT THEM WITH ME!

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE KYOTO IN THE SUMMER, FREE-LOADER!
BRUMB
AND SUMMER BED-DING?
AND A SUMMER PILLOW?
EH?
RUMM

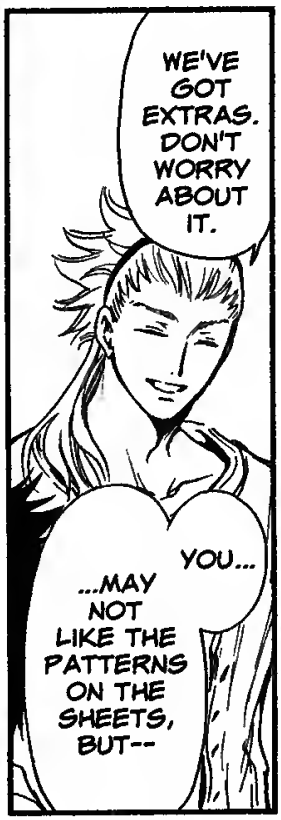
SO CHIKA-CHAN HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED A KYOTO SUMMER?

WINTER IN KYOTO IS HARD, BUT SUMMER HERE IS EVEN HARDER.
EHHHH!
ンンンンンー

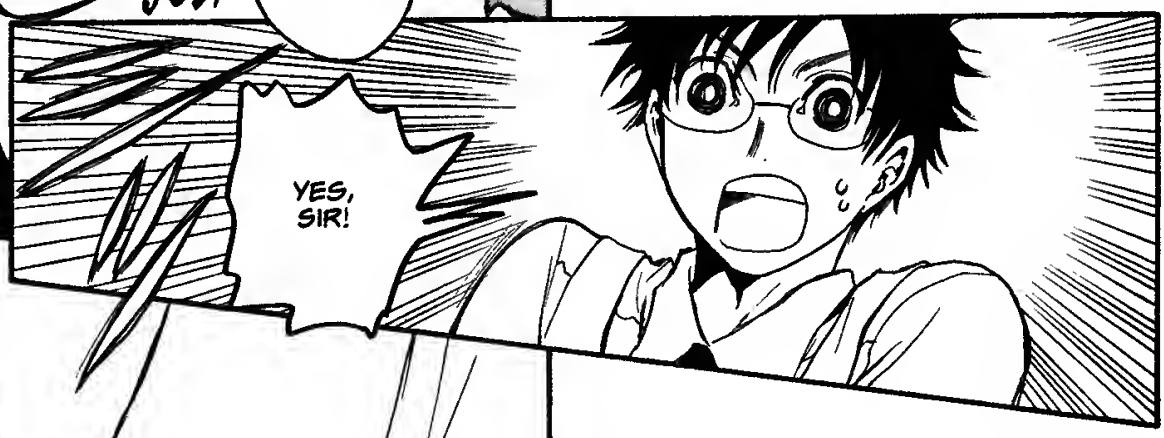
I'VE BEEN HERE A LITTLE IN WINTER, BUT...
N-NO...
I HAD HEARD THAT WINTERS IN KYOTO WERE ON THE COLD SIDE, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE THIS COLD.
CHIKAHITO KEEPS SAYING, "IT'S COLD! IT'S COOOLD!"


WE'LL SUPPLY CHIKA-CHAN'S SUMMER BEDDING.
YEAH.
SAKURA.

DO NOT WASTE WHAT LITTLE MONEY YOU HAVE...
...FREE-LOADER.
JOLT

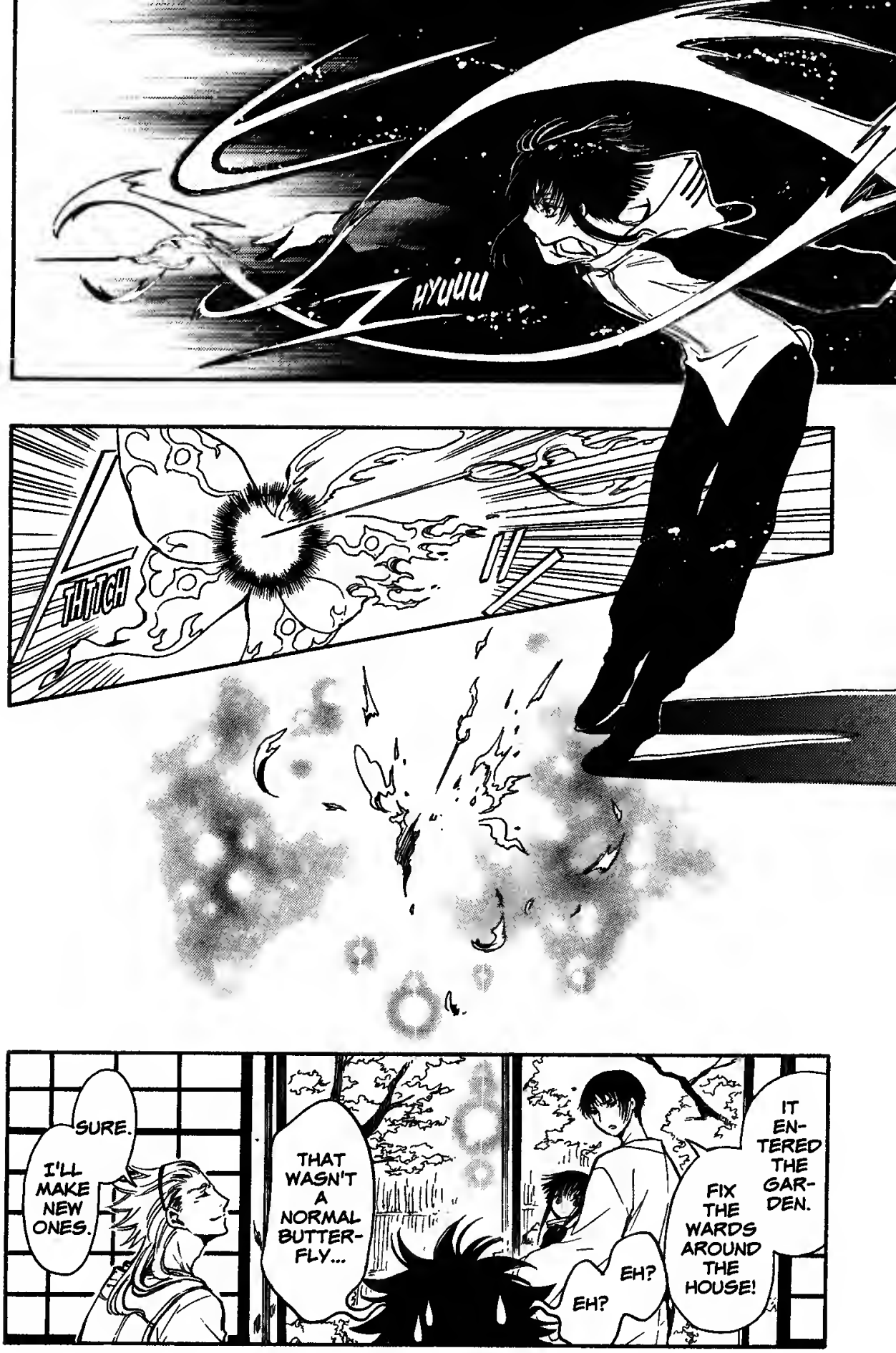

WE'VE GOT EXTRAS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU...
...MAY NOT LIKE THE PATTERNS ON THE SHEETS, BUT--

EH?
AH!
I'LL BUY IT FOR MYSELF!


YES, SIR!

WHISPER
TACHIBANA IS A MODERN VERSION OF TSUNDERE.
WHISPER
WHISPER
ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER SEEN THE DERE PART...
WHISPER
DOOM
DOOM
AH!

SHFF
A BUTTER-FLY?
SHUUUM
FWOOM


HYUUU
THUD
IT EN-TERED THE GAR-DEN.
FIX THE WARDS AROUND THE HOUSE!
EH?
EH?
THAT WASN'T A NORMAL BUTTER-FLY...
SURE. I'LL MAKE NEW ONES.

GRIN
THAT'S HOW MORE AND MORE MYSTERIES COMPOUND UPON EACH OTHER.
YOU KNOW, I JUST...
HEH HEH
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?!
ゴロゴロ
RUMBLE
FLASH
IF YOU WIND UP LATE...
AHHAHAHA!
...THINK THAT LIVING HERE WITH THESE PEOPLE...
OH NOOO!!
...MAKES ME THE HAPPIEST GUY ALIVE!

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: THE SPLIT'S BEGINNING

YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ANYTHING, HAVE YOU?
LAST NIGHT, I GATHERED UP EVERYTHING I NEED.
SO I'M JUST FINE.
CHIKAHITO!
YOUR LUNCH!
YAAH!!
あれ?なんか忘れ物!?
So you did forget something!!
FREELOOAADERR!!

POP
ひょこっ
STU-DENT LIFE IS HARD.
I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE AT A CERTAIN, SPECIFIC TIME.
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL! AND I WILL NOT PERMIT TARDI-NESS!
HERE!
TH-THANK YOU!
KNOWING HOW HARD IT CAN BE, I INCLUDED A LITTLE BONUS.

IT'S IN THERE ALONG WITH YOUR BOXED LUNCH. EAT IF YOU LIKE.
うううう
TEARING UP
WHAP
WHAP
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
ANNOYED...
ドラァ...

VWSSH
NOW GET GOING!
YES, SIR!!

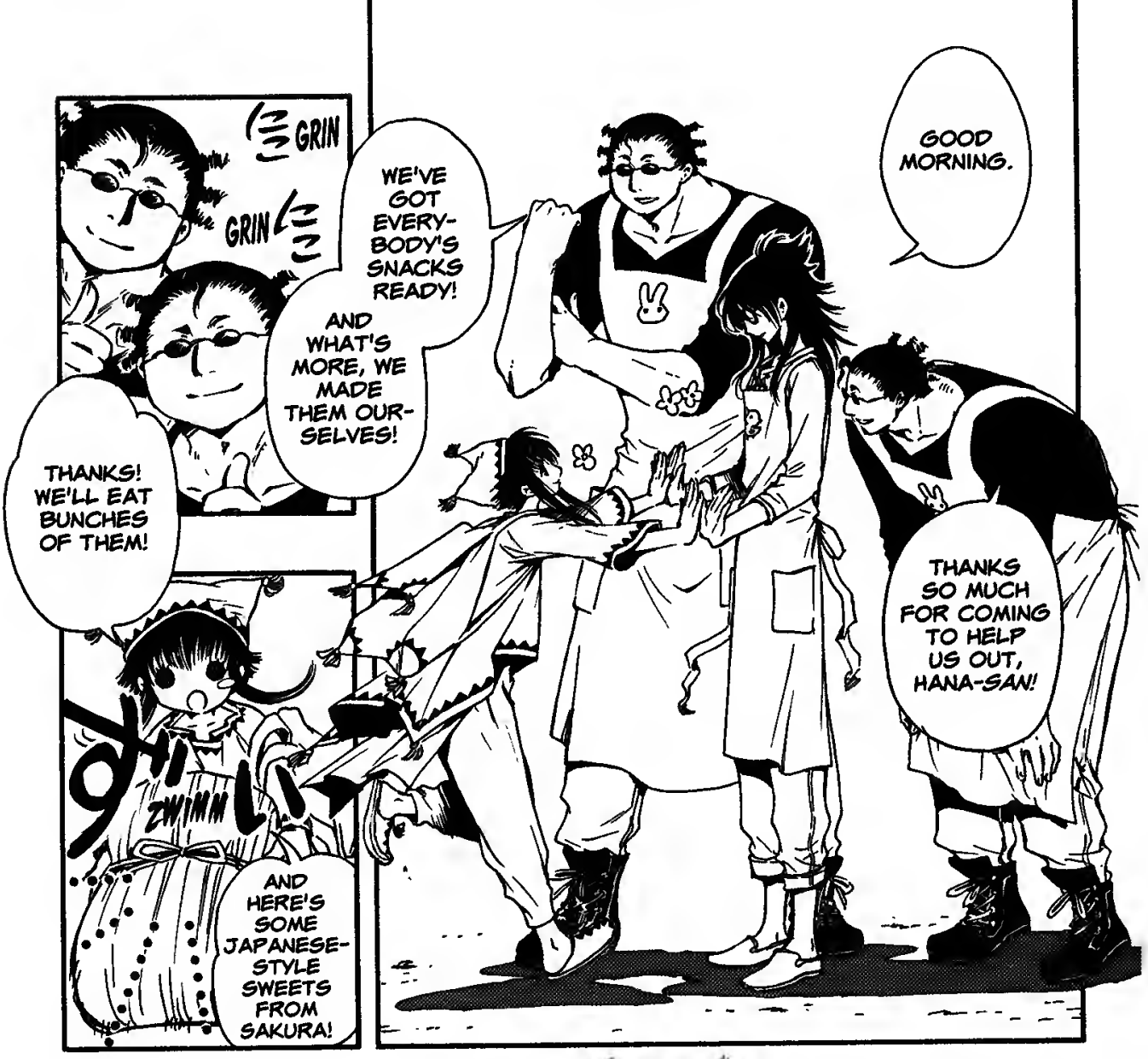
HANA-SAN, YOU TOO?
ALL RIGHT, HANA, YOURS IS IN HERE.
DOOM
THANK YOU.
YEAH!
I'M GOING TO YUKI-MURA'S.
IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY, AND HANA PROMISED TO HELP MAKE PAPER FLOWERS.
DROOP
ヘニョ…
POM
ポン
PO
ポン
HANA-SAN IS REALLY DEXTER-OUS!
WHEN HANA'S MIND IS SET ON IT, HANA CAN DO ANYTHING.
HEH HEH
I can see it now.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY-THING, THOUGH.
RIGHT ...
...HANA ?

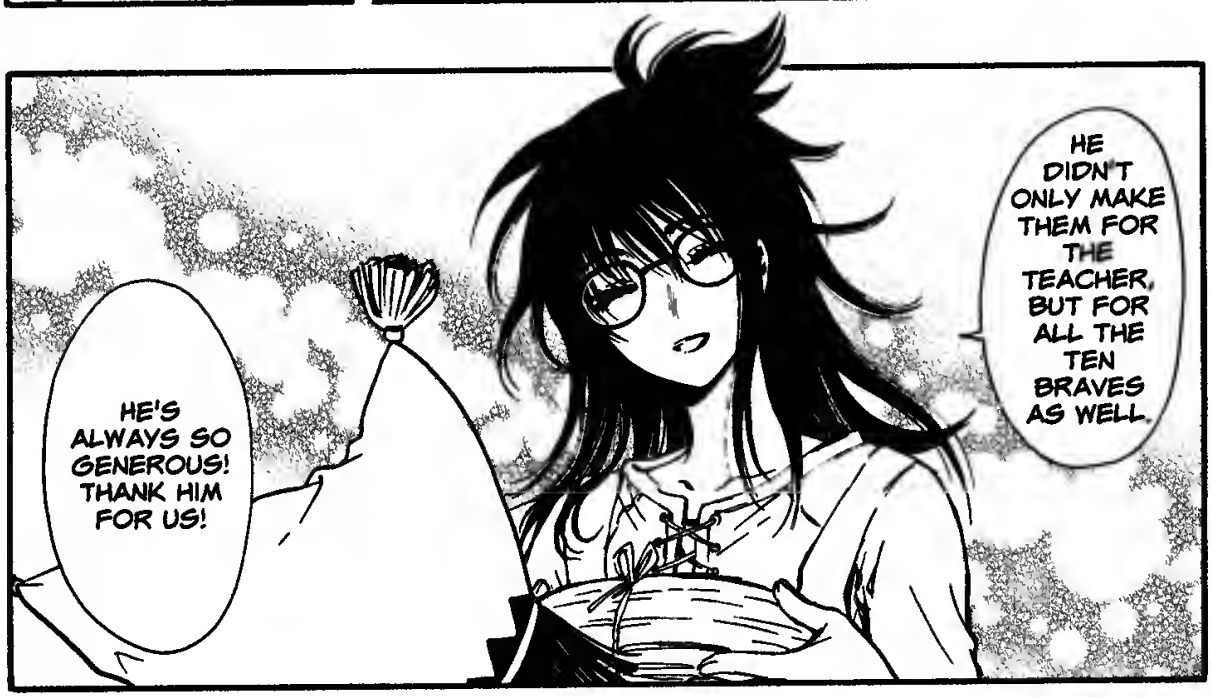
DECIDEDLY
HANA CAN'T DO WHAT HANA CAN'T DO.
HA HA HA!
あはは！
GLARE
SEE YOU!
NOW, GO!
SEE YOU LATER!
GRAB
!!
UWAAH! YESSIR!

I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU.
YOU HAVE TO STAY *HERE* FOR A WHILE.
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
NICE WEATHER, HUH?
YEP!
NICE WEATHER.
AND THE BREEZE FEELS GREAT.
NICE BREEZE.
THERE ARE ALL THOSE SHRINES AND TEMPLES THAT REALLY FASCINATE ME!
THE FOOD IS WONDERFUL TOO! AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THE FOOD WAS TOO COLORLESS, BUT IT'S SO FLAVORFUL--I WAS SURPRISED!
AND I'LL BET THE JAPANESE MAPLES ARE BEAUTIFUL IN THE FALL!

CHIKAHITO, DO YOU LIKE IT HERE?
YES!
IT'S A PLACE I'VE ALWAYS LOVED--EVEN BEFORE I EVER SET FOOT HERE. KYOTO, I MEAN.
I ALWAYS WONDERED WHEN I COULD GO VISIT...
OR RATHER, I KNEW I WANTED TO LIVE HERE.
THAT'S RIGHT. ALMOST BEFORE I REALIZED IT MYSELF, I--
"BE-FORE" ...?

YES, THAT'S TRUE.
YOU SAID THAT A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, HUH?
HANA...
...SAN?
FWSH
MORN-ING!
くどやま


GOOD MORNING.
WE'VE GOT EVERY-BODY'S SNACKS READY!
AND WHAT'S MORE, WE MADE THEM OUR-SELVES!
GRIN
GRIN
THANKS! WE'LL EAT BUNCHES OF THEM!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR COMING TO HELP US OUT, HANA-SAN!
ZWIMM
AND HERE'S SOME JAPANESE-STYLE SWEETS FROM SAKURA!


HE DIDN'T ONLY MAKE THEM FOR THE TEACHER, BUT FOR ALL THE TEN BRAVES AS WELL.
HE'S ALWAYS SO GENEROUS! THANK HIM FOR US!

SAKURA-SAN IS SUCH A WONDERFUL COOK!
CHIKA-HITO IS GOOD, TOO!
EH?
YES.
HANA-SAN ALLOWED EVERYONE TO TASTE HANA'S BOXED LUNCH THE OTHER DAY. THAT WAS YOUR DOING, I HEAR, CHIKAHITO-SAN.
THE STEWED-DUCK JIBUNI THAT I TASTED WAS VERY DELICIOUS.
DON'T EVEN THINK IT, CHIKA-HITO-CHAN!
YOU DON'T DARE FALL IN LOVE WITH YUKI-MURA-SAMA!
NOT UNLESS YOU'RE PREPARED TO DEFEAT ALL TEN OF US BRAVES!
AH!

SHAKE
SHAKE
I'M NOT THINKING ANY SUCH...
I-I-I-I...
...THING ...!!
GRR
PSHHH
WE'LL HAVE TO TELL SAIZOU AND SASUKE ABOUT THIS!
AH! YOU'VE GOT HIGH STANDARDS, HAVEN'T YOU, CHIKAHITO-CHAN!
NO!
I MEAN-- YUKIMURA-SAN IS BEAUTIFUL AND A WONDERFUL PERSON, BUT...
BUT...!
EHHHH ?!
EHHHH ?!

NOW, NOW! SEIKAI, ISA-- STOP IT THIS INSTANT.
CHIKA-HITO IS ON HIS WAY TO SCHOOL.
WE MUSTN'T MAKE HIM LATE.
OKAY.
SEE YOU LATER!
BWA ぼわ
AAN...
I'LL...
BLUSH
FWMP
I'LL BE SEEING YOU!

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
AS LONG ...
...AS HE'S HERE.

...IS HE DIFFERENT NOW?
OR IS HE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME?

SIGN: NISHIJIN HIGH SCHOOL

GOOD MORNING!
GOOD...

UM...
ACTU-ALLY...
?

YOU'RE JUST AWFUL!

MORN-ING...
...CHIKA-HITO.

AND YET ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL PERSON--
--ARRIVES ON THE SCENE!!!
...THE MOMENT YOU SAW HIM?
HADN'T I ASKED YOU TO INTRODUCE ME FIRST THING...
I WAS PREPARING TO DO JUST THAT.
はわ
WHOA!
はわ
WHOA!

THE YOUNG LADY IS CHIYA.
MY SISTER.
MY NAME IS CHIYA AOI.
AND I'VE JUST TRANS-FERRED INTO NISHIJIN HIGH.
I FEEL SO CHEATED! IF ONLY I WERE A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT, TOO, WE COULD'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS!
SO WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN?
FIRST.
IS THAT SO?
N-NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M CHIKAHITO TAKA-MOTO.
SHE PRAC-TICALLY GLOWS, AND SHE SEEMS SO NICE.
BEAUTI-FUL--BUT MAYBE I SHOULD SAY, "INCREDIBLY CUTE"!
I-IS THAT RIGHT?!
I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM MY BIG BROTHER, AND I SO LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.
NO, THE PLEA-SURE IS ALL MINE.

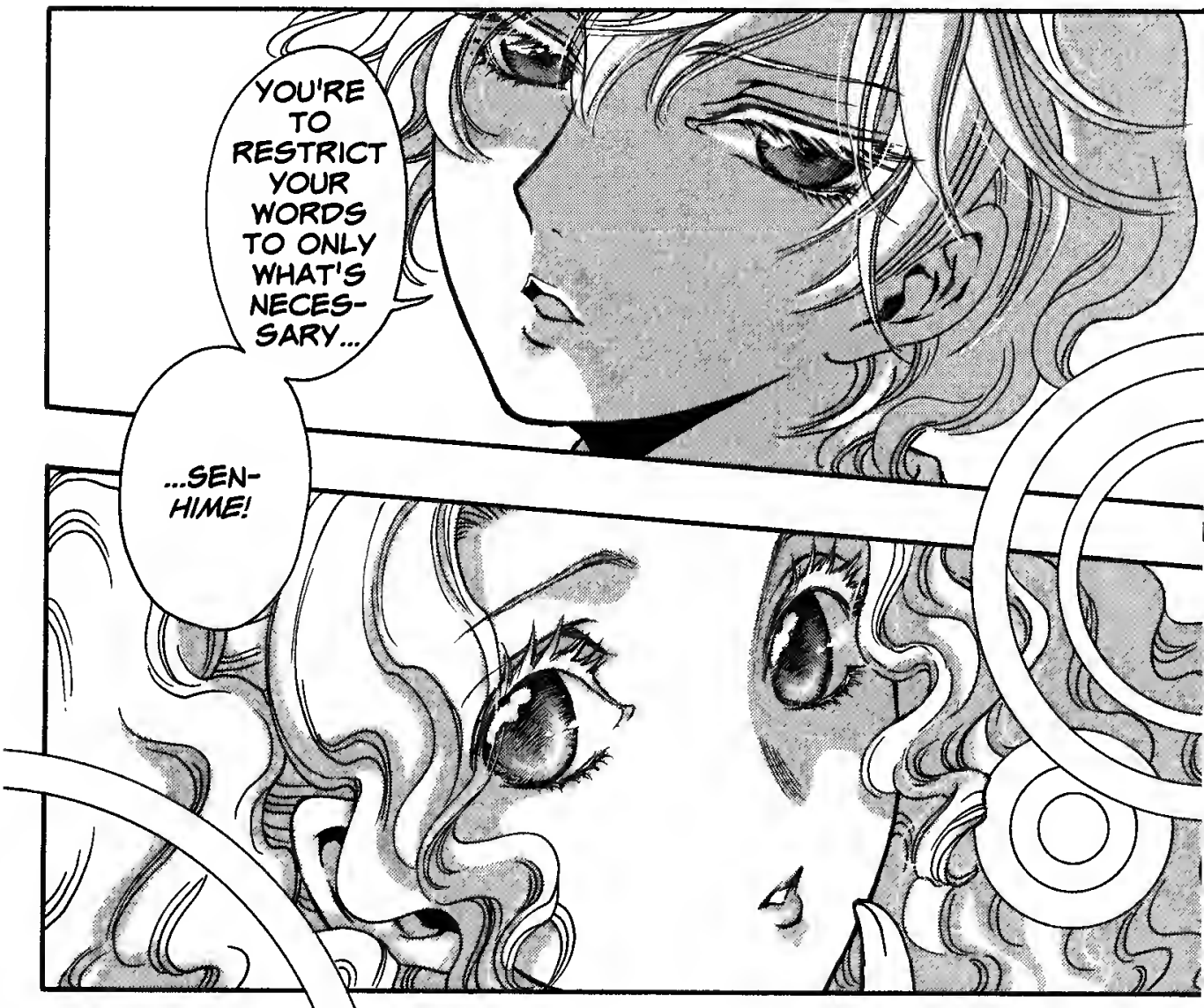
RIGHT, BROTHER?
BUT...
THERE'S NO GUARAN-TEE THAT WE'D BE IN THE SAME CLASS-ROOM, THOUGH.
OF COURSE THERE IS.
...?
I HAVE TO TAKE CHIYA TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO ON AHEAD.
AH!
SURE.
DRUG

IF IT ISN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE, MAYBE CHIYA-SAN WOULD LIKE TO HAVE LUNCH WITH US?
ONE OF MY HOUSEMATES MADE UP SOME VERY GOOD FOOD I CAN SHARE.
OH, HOW WONDERFUL! I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
YOU TOO, YUU, OF COURSE!
YES.

GREAT! THANKS!
I MAY HAVE MADE TOO MUCH, SO YOU CAN BRING HOME ANY THAT REMAIN UNEATEN.
SURE!
SINCE HANA-SAN AND THE GUYS DON'T REALLY EAT WESTERN SWEETS, I'LL PROBABLY BE EATING THEM ALL.
I'LL GO AHEAD AND BRING HOME THE BOX, BUT I DON'T THINK ANYBODY ELSE WILL HAVE ANY.

I'VE ...
...MADE SOME SWEETS TODAY AS WELL.
MAYBE WE CAN TRY SOME OF THOSE, TOO.
HM?

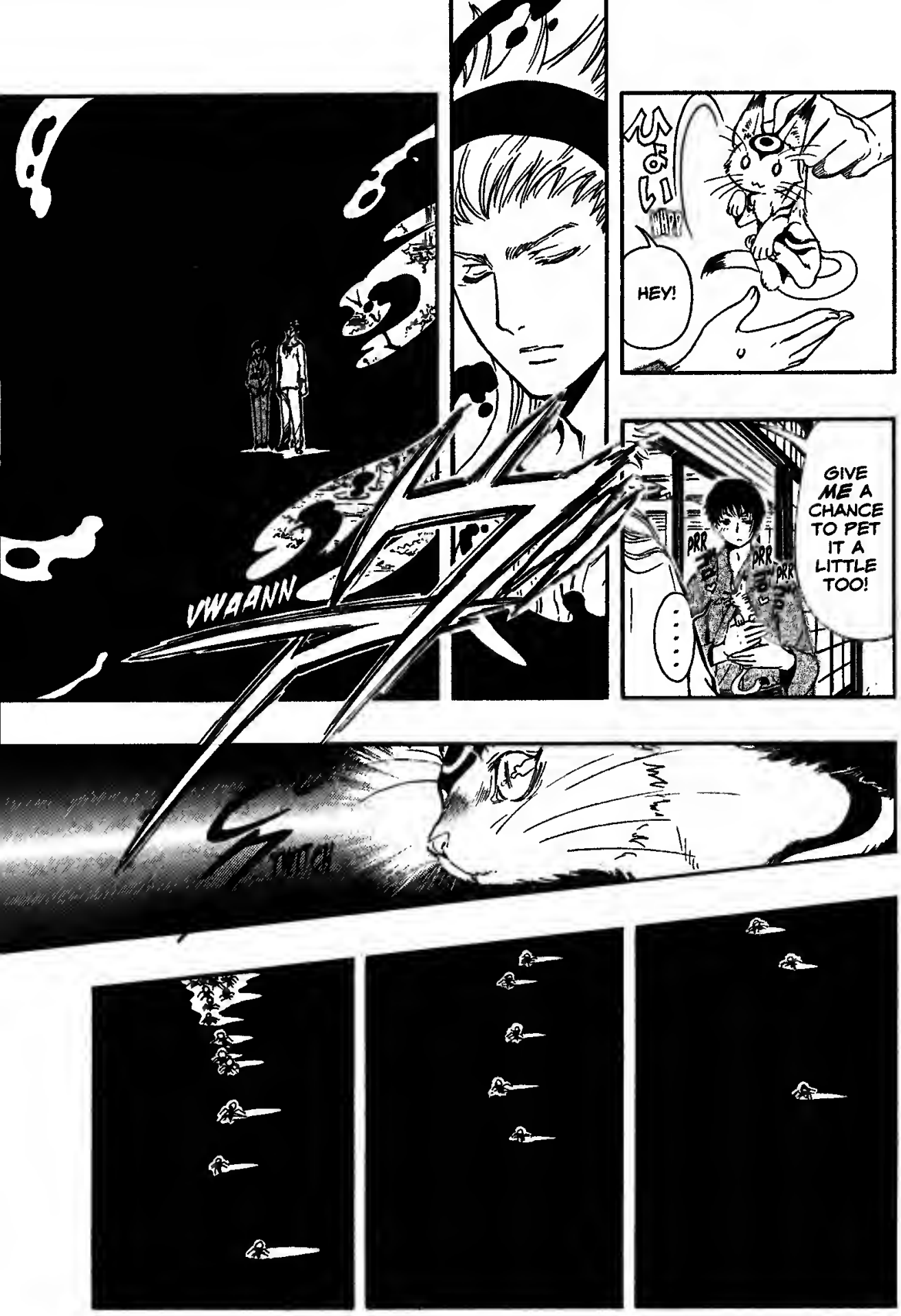
SEE YOU!


YOU'RE TO RESTRICT YOUR WORDS TO ONLY WHAT'S NECES-SARY...
...SEN-HIME!

I CAN SAY ANYTHING, AND HE WON'T NOTICE.
THAT BOY...
...REALLY...
...DOESN'T HAVE...
...THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF POWER.
AND EVEN IF HE DID, THAT HEAD-IN-THE-CLOUDS ATTITUDE OF HIS WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO NOTICE.
THE MOMENT I TOLD YOU THERE WAS A CLASSMATE I WAS BECOMING FRIENDS WITH...
...YOU HAD TO SEE HIM, TO THE POINT OF TRANSFERRING HERE.
YES, SURE, I WANTED TO SEE THIS CLASSMATE OF YOURS.
BUT THE REAL REASON I CAME HERE WAS FOR THAT OTHER STUFF THAT YOU SAID...
THAT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING...
...OF THE FUN.

...SIMPLY REFUSE TO BE LEFT OUT OF IT ALL.
...AND MY ONI, TENSHU...
SO I...
FWAFF

OKAY? IEMITSU-SAMA?
OKAY.
WHEN WE BEGIN OUR *PLAYTIME*, WE CAN KILL AS MUCH AS WE LIKE.


VWAANN
HEY!
GIVE ME A CHANCE TO PET IT A LITTLE TOO!
PRR
PRR
PRR

ZWITCH
ZWITCH
FWOOSH

HOW CAN THEY GET IN?!
KYEE!
GRRARR!
KYEE!
KYEEEEEEEE!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO FIX THE WARDS AFTER THAT MOTH THING GOT IN YESTERDAY...?
THE WARDS AREN'T THE PROBLEM.
IT DIDN'T GET IN YESTERDAY, EITHER.

IT DIDN'T COME FROM...
...OUT-SIDE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I SAID-- THEY CAME FROM SOMEWHERE *WITHIN* THE WARDS PROTECTING URA-SHICHIKEN.

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: THE ENCROACHING ENVELOPMENT

SAKURA-SAN'S WESTERN-STYLE FOOD SURE IS GOOD, BUT IT'S HIS JAPANESE COOKING THAT'S REALLY AMAZING!
STEWED MEATS AND VEG-GIES AND STUFF!
はわあああん
BWAAA
AAAN

I WONDER WHAT SAKURA-SAN FIXED FOR MY LUNCHBOX TODAY?
HA-HAAA!
ふっふーん♪

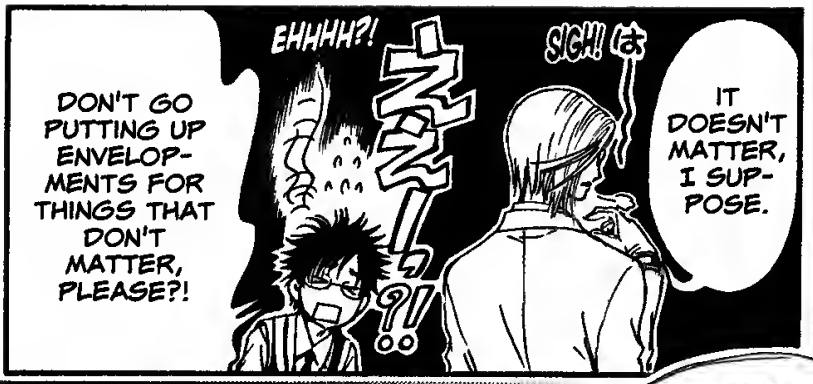
HE'S TEACHING ME, TOO, BUT...
MMM
むー
MMM
...MINE JUST DOESN'T MATCH THE "WOOOOW" TASTE OF HIS FOOD YET.

!
DWNNN

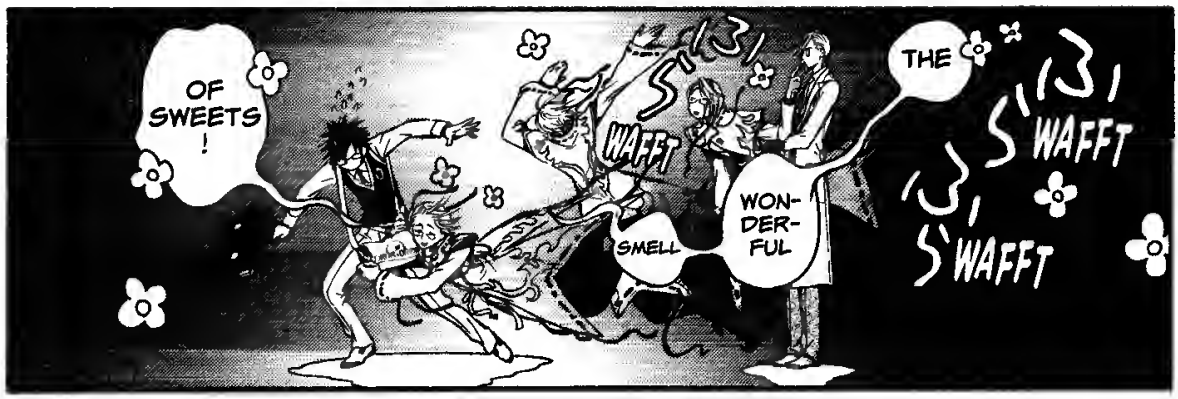
EH?!
EH?
NO RUNNING IN THE HALLWAYS.
SENSEI !!!

URK!
WELL ...

I--
I--
I--
I WASN'T RUN-NING.
.....


DON'T GO PUTTING UP ENVELOP-MENTS FOR THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER, PLEASE?!
EHHHH?!
SIGH!
IT DOESN'T MATTER, I SUP-POSE.

POP
SNIFF
NOW, NOW.
JUST BECAUSE THE AREA AROUND YOU GOES A LITTLE DARK DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO START MAKING A FUSS ABOUT IT.
AT LEAST YOU'VE STARTED USING ADULT WORDS SUCH AS "ENVELOPMENT."

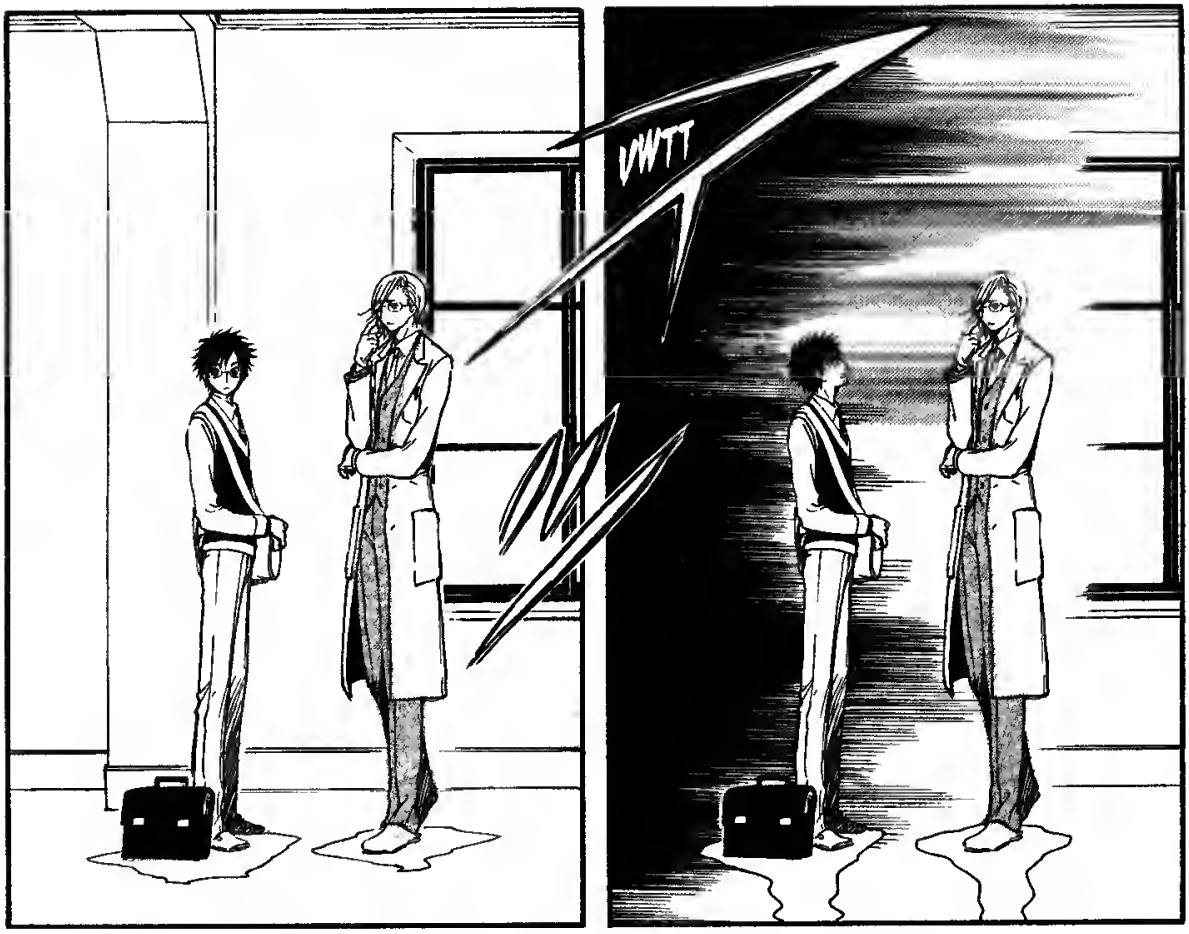

OF SWEETS!
WAFFT
SMELL
WON-DER-FUL
THE
WAFFT
WAFFT

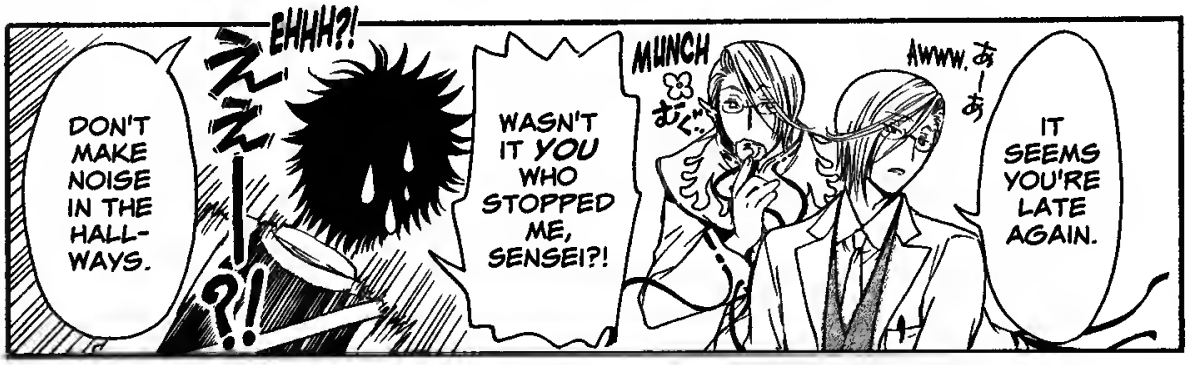
SWEETSSS...
URK!
きゅーん
WHIIINE
IT'S LIKE HE'S SPROUTED DOG EARS AND A TAIL!

THESE ARE SWEETS?
GLOW
きら
GLOW
きら

TH-THEY ARE, BUT--

H--
HERE.
YAAAY!
ENKA.
I SUPPOSE I CAN GIVE HIM ONE OF MY OWN PIECES.
SIGH
WELL...
...ONE, PERHAPS.
SHIVER SHIVER
YAAAY!!!
IT'S TRULY DELICIOUS!
W-WILL YOU HAVE ONE, TOO, SENSEI?
MUNCH
MUNCH
I'LL PASS.


VWTT


EHHH?!
えぇー!
?!
DON'T MAKE NOISE IN THE HALL-WAYS.
WASN'T IT YOU WHO STOPPED ME, SENSEI?!
MUNCH
むぐ…
Awww.
あーあ
IT SEEMS YOU'RE LATE AGAIN.

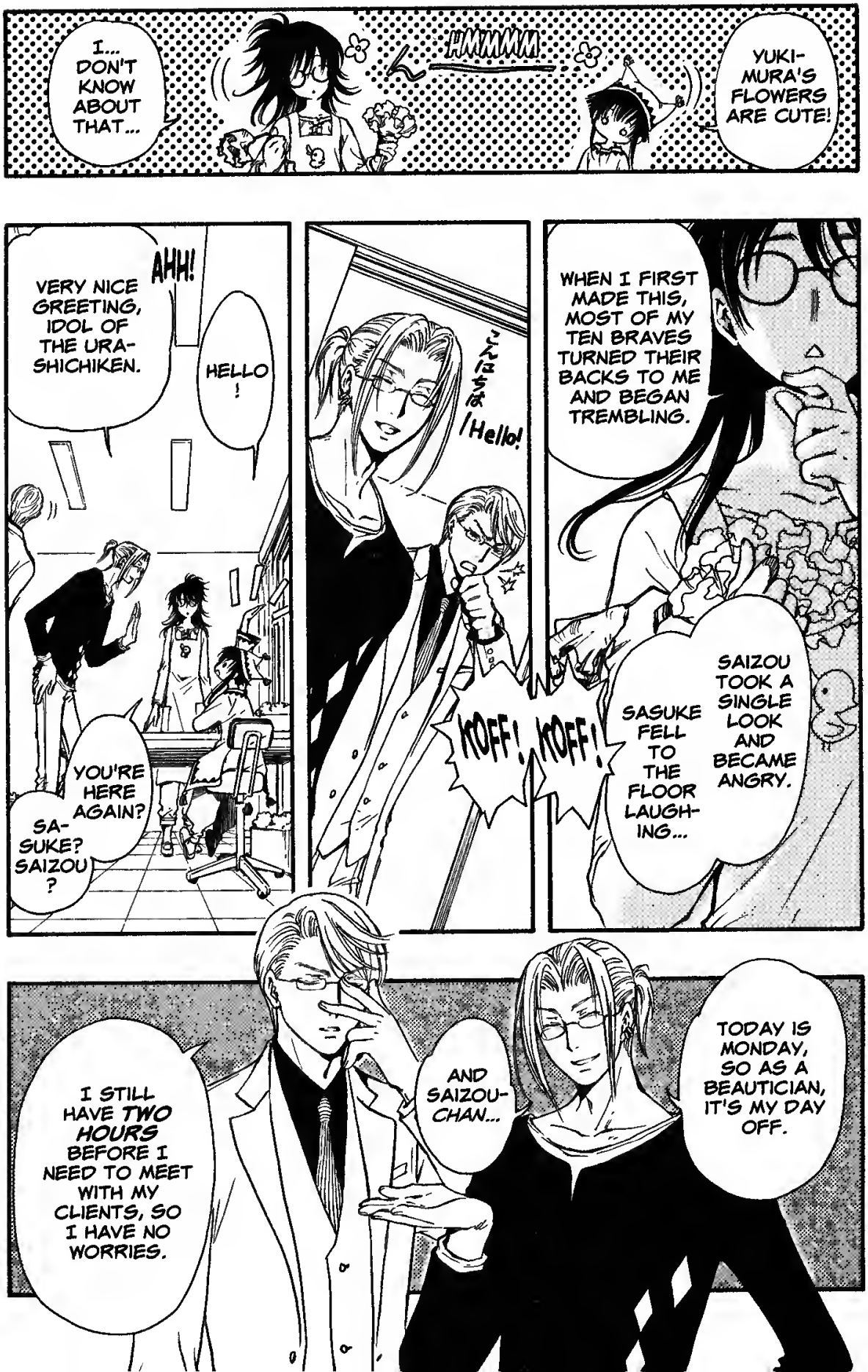
HOW ONE SIDED CAN YOU GET?!

THMP
THMP
I'M GOING TO TELL MY TEACHER THAT I'M LATE BECAUSE YOU STOPPED ME!
WHAT-EVER. MOVE ALONG.
I HOPE A DELI-CIOUS TASTE IS ALL THAT'S IN THAT.
むぐ…
? ?
MUNCH…
THERE SEEMS TO BE NOTHING ADDITIONAL IN THIS BUN.
WHICH MEANS …
…THAT THE TWIN TREES OF THE URA-SHICHIKEN HAVEN'T NOTICED YET.
MAYBE ?

VERY IMPRESSIVE, I MUST SAY, THAT IEMITSU-KO.
THAT BOY ...
...IS SCARY !
TRUE, CER-TAINLY TRUE.
HOWEVER ...

...FEAR CAN, AT TIMES, BE A POWERFUL FORCE WHEN IT COMES TO ATTRACTING FOLLOWERS.
THOSE WHO SEEK THE CHARMS OF THE DEVIL WILL COME IN DROVES.
NOW...
...WILL HE NOTICE?
OR END UP NEVER NOTICING...
...UNTIL HIS LIFE IS OVER...?

HWSH-
I'M NOT A SWEATING OR A TOILING HANA-SAN!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SWEAT AND TOIL, HANA-SAN.
IS IT OKAY TO BE IN HERE?
IT'S THE CHILDREN'S NAPTIME RIGHT NOW.
GRIP
にぎ
GRIP
にぎ
YOU SURE ARE DEXTEROUS, HANA-SAN.
I'M DOING MY BEST, BUT...
THINK SO?
...I DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO GET IT RIGHT.
MESSY
くしゃ
What's my problem?
なんでだろう…


I... DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
HMMMM
YUKIMURA'S FLOWERS ARE CUTE!
VERY NICE GREETING, IDOL OF THE URASHICHIKEN.
AHH!
HELLO!
こんにちは/Hello!
WHEN I FIRST MADE THIS, MOST OF MY TEN BRAVES TURNED THEIR BACKS TO ME AND BEGAN TREMBLING.
SAIZOU TOOK A SINGLE LOOK AND BECAME ANGRY.
SASUKE FELL TO THE FLOOR LAUGHING...
KOFF! KOFF!
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN?
SASUKE? SAIZOU?
I STILL HAVE *TWO HOURS* BEFORE I NEED TO MEET WITH MY CLIENTS, SO I HAVE NO WORRIES.
AND SAIZOU-CHAN...
TODAY IS MONDAY, SO AS A BEAUTICIAN, IT'S MY DAY OFF.

GLARE
BUT BEFORE THAT-- WE HAVE PREPARED ALL OF THE ITEMS YOU ORDERED US TO COLLECT.
ALL IS READY.
YOU'RE SUCH A SERIOUS LAWYER, SAIZOU-CHAN!
So that's what he is.
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T NEGLECT YOUR TRUE DUTIES, SAIZOU AND SASUKE.
THOOM
YOU ARE SANADA'S VITAL SOURCE OF FUNDS!
ROGER!

OKAY!
POP
WHEN YUKIMURA-SAMA WAS UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN KUDOYAMA WAY BACK THEN, HE WAS IN DIRE STRAITS WHERE MONEY WAS CONCERNED. SO HE'S AMAZINGLY THRIFTY NOW.
IS THAT RIGHT?
TWITCH
I'M NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO BUY HIM HIS FAVORITE SAKE.
AND ALL OF US TEN BRAVES ARE WORKING REALLY HARD AT PART-TIME JOBS.
SO...
THERE IS NO SHAME IN BEING THRIFTY!
GRAAK
...YUKI-MURA-SAMA!
IT IS EXACTLY AS YOU SAY...

AH! HA HA HA HA!
SLAP
SLAP
HRRK!
...TELL ME WHY EVERYONE TURNED AWAY WHEN THEY SAW THIS?
AN ENVELOPMENT!
...SO I SEE.

IT'S CLOSE.
IT'S LOCATED AT...
...CHIKA-HITO'S...
...SCHOOL.
私立西陣高校

DING DONG
DANG DONG
IT'S NICE OUT. HOW ABOUT OUTSIDE?
WHERE SHOULD WE EAT LUNCH?
CHATTER
CHATTER
GOOD IDEA.
UNDER THE TREES?
YEAH.
I HOPE THEY'RE NOT ALREADY TAKEN.
HOW ABOUT WHERE THE BENCHES ARE?
IN THE BACK OF THE SCHOOLYARD.
IF THAT'S NO GOOD, WE'LL FIND ANOTHER SPOT.
AH! I'LL GO GET CHIYA.
THEN I'LL GO ON AHEAD.
IF THE BENCHES ARE TAKEN, I'LL TEXT YOU.
SHE JUST TRANSFERRED HERE, SO EVEN IF I TELL HER WHERE TO GO BY TEXT, SHE PROBABLY WOULDN'T FIND US.
GREAT! SEE YOU.

ALL RIGHT!
OH!
IT'S PERFECT FOR AN OUTSIDE LUNCH!
VWNNN
SLUMP がくり…
...SEN-SEI!
FWOOSH
...DON'T GO AROUND JUST MAKING ENVELOP-MENTS...
LIKE I SAID...

THNT
DRUG&DROP
SKATCH
AH!
THE LUNCH SAKURA-SAN MADE FOR ME!

KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
FLASH
WAAAH!

Myoho
...
POHH
Kaza-
bana!
DAAAN

HANA-SAN!!
TMP
HANA-CHAN!
YOU'RE QUICK!
WHOA! CHIKAHITO-CHAN'S IN A TOUGH SPOT!

IT WAS YUKIMURA-SAMA WHO COMMANDED ME TO GO.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR SAIZOU OPENING THE ENVELOP-MENT, THIS STORY WOULD ALREADY BE OVER.
IT'S A GOOD THING WE CAME ALONG, TOO.

KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
WHOOSH
HEH!
THAT'S OUR YUKIMURA-SAMA!
SUCH PENE-TRATING FORE-SIGHT...
CLENCH

Myoho...
WAAN
DRUG DR
KCHIK
FWASSH

Ennya!

KOOM
KOOM
KOOM
KOOM

GATE 7
ゲート セブン

GATE 7 VOLUME 4 TRANSLATION NOTES

COMPILED BY WILLIAM FLANAGAN

General notes on Kyoto: *Kyoto was one of the few large Japanese population centers to escape the extremely destructive American firebombing of World War II that burned historical sites in nearly every other Japanese city close to Kyoto's size. The determination not to bomb Kyoto was a conscious decision by American civilian and military leadership in deference to Kyoto's many historical buildings and landmarks. Although some other historical sites in more rural locations—such as Ise or Izumo—were also spared, cities that were formerly rich in history (such as Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, and Kobe—not to mention Hiroshima and Nagasaki) have all had to rebuild replicas of their ancient historic landmarks. Kyoto is the one large Japanese city where history is still very much in evidence.*

Page 14, *suika*: *Suika* is a combination of two kanji; the first is *sui*, which means "water," and the second is *ka*, which means "flower." *Fuuka*: As mentioned in the notes for volume 1, the name for Hana's *myoho* technique is made up of kanji for "wind" and "flower."

Page 17, chi: Pronounced *ki* in Japanese, this is the concept in Chinese medicine of energy that can affect one's personal well-being, as well as many other aspects of humanity and the world. It is a central concept in many traditional Chinese disciplines, such as feng shui and martial arts.

Page 29: *Shin ramen* (also spelled *shin ramyun*) is a Korean hot and spicy ramen. An instant version of the dish has become a Korean export and is even available on Internet sites such as Amazon. Yawata-ya is a Kyoto restaurant founded in 1910 that features dishes skewered on wooden sticks.

Page 38: *Juufu* is made up of two *kanji*, the first meaning "curse" and the second meaning "garment."

Page 40, castle town: Administration in Japan's feudal era was conducted in a series of castles located throughout the country. Since these castles were cultural centers,

the roads leading to them and the area surrounding their main gates became thriving communities of homes, shops, and other establishments. Some castle towns are preserved as tourist destinations in Japan.

Page 47: Udon is a thick wheat-flour noodle that is usually served hot in a soup along with meats, vegetables, and seafood in many different combinations.

Page 48: *Shochu* is not actually *sake*, but a different type of distilled Japanese traditional spirit. *Sake* is a rice wine, and while *shochu* can be distilled from rice, it can also be distilled from barley, sweet potatoes, or other ingredients. The *imo-jouchu* that Sakura mentions is *shochu* made from sweet potatoes, but although the *take* in *take-jouchu* means "bamboo," it does not mean the *shochu* is made from bamboo. Rather, it refers to other types of *shochu* that are served in bamboo bottles.

Page 55: The cell-phone provider Willcom puts out a cell phone that is meant for the use of small children. It is called the *anshinda phone* ("peace of mind phone"), and it is designed to call certain pre-programmed numbers with the push of a single button. With it, a child can call a safe number such as a parent's. Rival company NTT puts out a similar but even simpler phone with only three buttons.

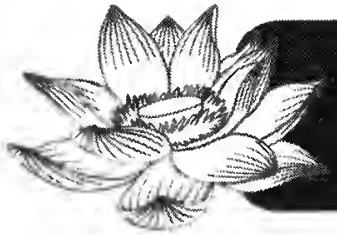
Page 56, Kudoyama: In 1600, Ieyasu Tokugawa had won the Battle of Sekigahara and controlled essentially all of Japan. Having fought against Tokugawa, Sanada and his father were exiled to Kudoyama near Mt. Koya in Wakayama Prefecture, just south of Osaka. Sanada spent nearly a decade and a half exiled there until he managed to escape and join the last of the Toyotomi clan in Osaka.

Page 62: There is a Japanese saying, *hachi-bunme*, which means that it is healthiest to fill up your stomach to 80 percent, rather than trying to eat until you are full. Some research done on longevity in Okinawa seems to confirm this 80 percent idea. There is a saying with a similar sentiment in English: "Light suppers make long life."

Page 68: Mitsunari Ishida was a *daimyo* (great lord) even before he met Hideyoshi Toyotomi, but when he entered the Toyotomi government he became one of Hideyoshi's top administrators. His administrative abilities were reputed to be brilliant, but he was also reportedly very strict and tactless and made enemies. After Hideyoshi's death, he was one of the five regents who were tasked with governing Japan until Hideyoshi's son, Hideyori, came of age. Ishida was one of the main leaders of the resistance against Ieyasu Tokugawa and commanded the Toyotomi-loyal forces at the Battle of Sekigahara—a pivotal battle that Ishida and the Toyotomi forces lost. A few days after the battle, Ishida was found, brought to Kyoto, and executed.

Page 69: Sakon Shima was one of Mitsunari Ishida's top lieutenants and a commander at the Battle of Sekigahara. He was wounded during the battle, later dying of those wounds.

Page 85: *Seiza* is the formal way to sit in Japan. You sit with your shins and feet tucked underneath your thighs and rear end, with your back as straight as if you were at attention. It is traditional, so the elderly in Japan are quite used to it, but modern Japanese young people hardly ever practice it. To those unaccustomed to it, *seiza* will cause a pins-and-needles feeling and

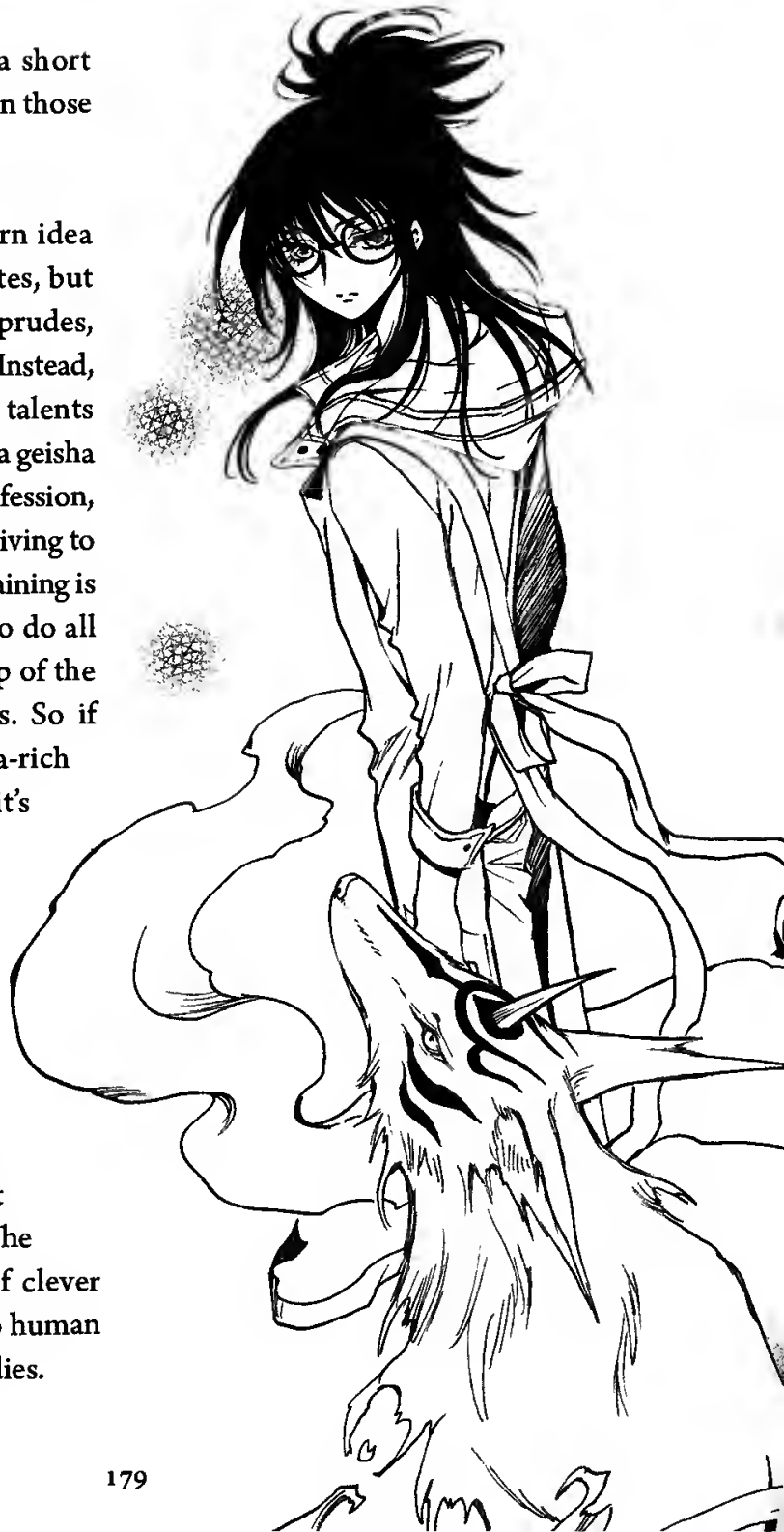


TANUKI: *Raccoon dog. One of the standard magical creatures in Japanese folklore.*

numbness in the legs after only a short while. It can also cause leg cramps in those without long practice.

Page 96, ***maiko***: There is a Western idea that equates geisha with prostitutes, but although geisha certainly weren't prudes, their main selling point wasn't sex. Instead, it was their musical and dancing talents and conversational abilities. Being a geisha was (and is) a highly respected profession, and there is no shortage of girls striving to enter the profession. A geisha in training is called a *maiko*, and she is made to do all the chores assisting in the upkeep of the geisha under whom she studies. So if anybody needs help in the geisha-rich environment of Kami-shichiken, it's the *maiko*.

Page 100: Called *tanuki* in Japan, the raccoon dog, like the fox, is one of the standard magical creatures in Japanese folklore. There is an actual raccoon dog in Japan that resembles a raccoon or a badger, though it is a completely separate species. The mythological *tanuki* is a race of clever creatures that can shapeshift into human form or even possess people's bodies.



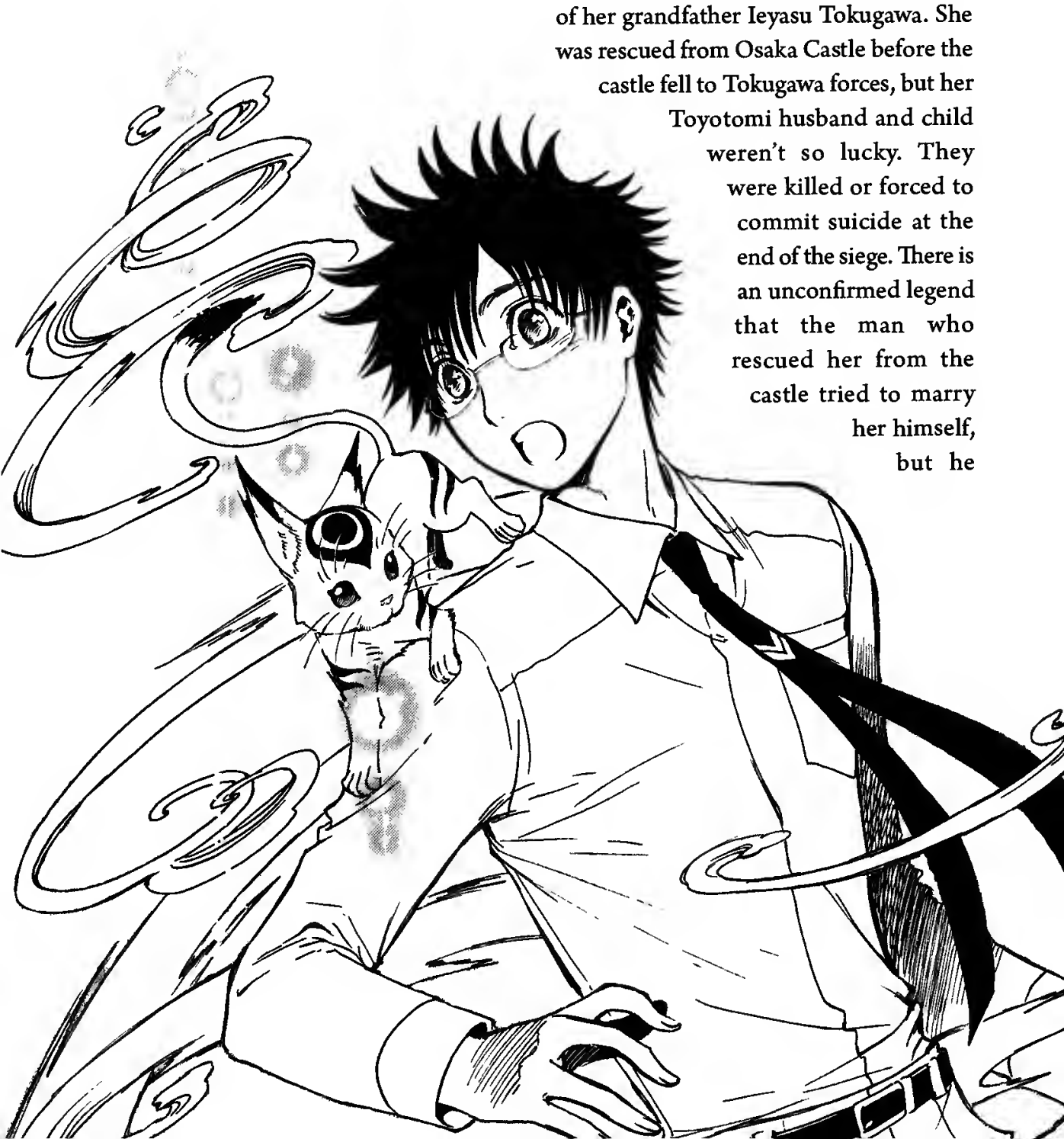
Page 104: Upon completing a meal, especially when there is more than one person at the table, the standard phrase one says is *gochisô-sama deshita*, which means, "It was a feast." This is a way of thanking the cook (even if the cook is not present) and it is a ubiquitous phrase in Japan. Not nearly so ubiquitous is the cook's response phrase, *osomatsu-sama deshita*, which means, "Sorry for my poor performance." Since this is a standard phrase, the humble response is not necessarily taken by the diners at face value.

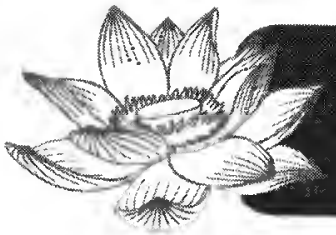
Page 108, *tsundere*: This word is a fairly recent addition to the Japanese lexicon, but it has spread quickly over the past decade until now nearly everyone in Japan knows what it means. It is derived from two onomatopoeia (sound words), *tsun-tsun*, which is the sound of being poked by something sharp, and *dere-dere*, one of the meanings of which is the sound of someone fawning all over someone else. The two together refer to a type of personality that is angry and prickly at one moment and loving the next. However, more recently it seems to apply to anyone with a quick-to-anger personality, regardless of whether the person is ever nice. Chikahito makes that clear when he responds that he's never seen Tachibana's *dere* side.

Page 122, *jibuni*: Reportedly a dish out of the historical tourist town of Kanazawa, it consists of duck that is thinly sliced,

coated with flour or starch, and served up in a thick soy-sauce-based soup along with mushrooms and bamboo shoots. However, *jibuni* seems to have acquired a wide variety of ingredients and tastes as it spread out from its point of origin.

Page 132: The "princess" Sen-*hime* was the older sister of Iemitsu and daughter of the second shogun of the Tokugawa era, Hidetada. When she was seven she was sent off to be the wife of Hideyori, the juvenile heir to the Toyotomi clan. There she lived through the strife between her husband's Toyotomi forces and the forces of her grandfather Ieyasu Tokugawa. She was rescued from Osaka Castle before the castle fell to Tokugawa forces, but her Toyotomi husband and child weren't so lucky. They were killed or forced to commit suicide at the end of the siege. There is an unconfirmed legend that the man who rescued her from the castle tried to marry her himself, but he





SAKURA: "Cherry tree." TACHIBANA: A type of native Japanese citrus fruit tree.

suffered a tragic death when his plan was uncovered. In the legend, Sen-*hime* had rejected the man's pleas anyway, preferring to marry the handsome Tadatoki Honda, sponsor of the famous swordsman Musashi Miyamoto. But Sen-*hime*'s luck was never good: her only son with Tadatoki died at the age of three, and Tadatoki himself died of tuberculosis when Sen-*hime* was twenty-nine years old. It was then that she cut her hair and took the life of a Buddhist nun.

Page 150: *Sakura* means "cherry tree," and *tachibana* is a type of native Japanese citrus fruit tree. "The twin trees" refers to the two older men of the Ura-shichiken. It also reminds Japanese readers of the *tachibana* and *sakura* trees that were planted in the emperor's garden (see the "Right Flank/ Left Flank" note in volume 1).

Page 166, *kazabana*: The name for this *myoho* technique is a combination of two kanji; the first is *kaza* or *kaze*, which means "wind," and the second is *hana*, which means "flower." (*Hana* changes to *bana* through linguistic rules.)

Page 170, *ennya*: The name for this *myoho* technique is made up of kanji for "fire" and "arrow."

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